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CHC confirms 3 cases of ARDS; 1 death recorded. PAGE 5

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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

NATION

Tornadoes ravage portions of central Oklahoma, killing one man.

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WORLD

Honeybees are being trained in Croatia to find land mines.

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LIFE & STYLE

Another day, another domination for Taylor Swift. ➤ PAGE 20

Bar evaluation flunks Quichocho

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Bar Association has flunked lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho Jr. in the evaluation its members did on his fitness to sit on the Superior Court bench.

A copy of the Bar's evaluation results obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday showed that members gave Quichocho the lowest average scores, equivalent to "unacceptable" and "deficient."

Quichocho

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Quichocho yesterday but there was no reply as of press time.

The survey form asked Bar members to score Quichocho on a scale of 1 to 5

See BAR on Page 4

DPL seeks talks on 4 hotels' expiring leases

» 4 to 12 years left for four hotels' land leases

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tenorio

To prevent the loss of millions of tourism investments in the CNMI, acting Department of Public Lands secretary Pete A. Tenorio asked four major hotels—including global brand Hyatt Regency Saipan—whether they are willing to consider at this time extending their land leases by 25 to 40 years so they could continue operating on the islands.

DPL is offering these four major hotels an opportunity to extend their leases,

See DPL on Page 4

REMEMBERING FALLEN HEROES

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated left, joins veterans, supporters and advocates for a group photo after signing a proclamation yesterday declaring May 20 to 27 as Memorial Week. The upcoming observance was made more somber by last week's deaths of two Guam soldiers in Kabul, Afghanistan. The CNMI joins Guam in mourning the deaths. The governor also signed a proclamation yesterday declaring May 27 to June 2 CNMI Cancer Survivors Week and June 2 National Cancer Survivors Day.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See related story on Page 5

Lower fuel prices in A. Samoa raises questions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Commission chair Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said yesterday he will be asking Mobil Oil Marianas and Shell Marianas to explain why the CNMI's gas prices remain high, considering that in American Samoa, pump prices of unleaded gasoline have already gone below $4.

In the CNMI, the cheapest pump price

See FUEL on Page 4

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY TWO CENTURIES

International migration seen to drive US population growth

International migration is projected to surpass natural increase (births minus deaths) as the principal driver of U.S. population growth by the middle of this century, according to three new series of population projections released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau.

This scenario would mark the first time that natural increase was not the leading cause of population increase since at least 1850, when the census began collecting information about residents' country of birth.

The shift in what drives U.S. population growth is projected to occur between 2027 and 2038, depending on the future level of international migration.

"Our nation has had higher immigration rates in the past, particularly during the great waves of the late 19th and early

See MIGRATION on Page 4

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Local

Health corporation management reshuffle in the offing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to what they describe as widespread disconnect, confusion, and overlapping responsibilities in the current setup of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. management, the board is being pushed to approve changes in the agency's organizational structure.

Interim CEO Esther Muña presented to the board Friday a proposed new organizational chart for the corporation.

She said the new organizational setup has already received positive feedback from employees during preliminary review.

Muña told *Saipan Tribune* that the main objective of the restructuring is to address the "widespread disconnect" at the corporation, remove confusion, and make clear the maximum scope of responsibilities of members in the organizational chart such as the directors of each hospital unit.

» Disconnect, confusion, and overlapping of responsibilities at hospital bared

Under the proposal, all directors—including the nursing directors, the director for Medical Affairs, director for quality management, and hospital services director, among others—will report directly to the chief operating officer, or COO.

Under the existing setup, all these directors fall under the coverage of the director of hospital services, a position currently held by Karen Buettner.

The medical staff is also directly handled by the hospital services director, and Muña said the restructuring plan is thinking of removing this link.

In the new design, most functions of the director of hospital services will be removed and placed under the COO function. The same proposal places the chief financial officer next to the COO.

Also directly reporting to the COO under the proposal are the directors of the Rota and Tinian health clinics, who used to report directly to the CEO or the director for hospital services, which sometimes created confusion.

When asked for comment, Muña confirmed the proposed removal of some functions from the director of hospital services, including behavioral health, mental health, and substance programs, among other duties.

Presently, Muña said that the directors perform about 20 responsibilities each—far from the standard seven responsibilities in a normal hospital organization.

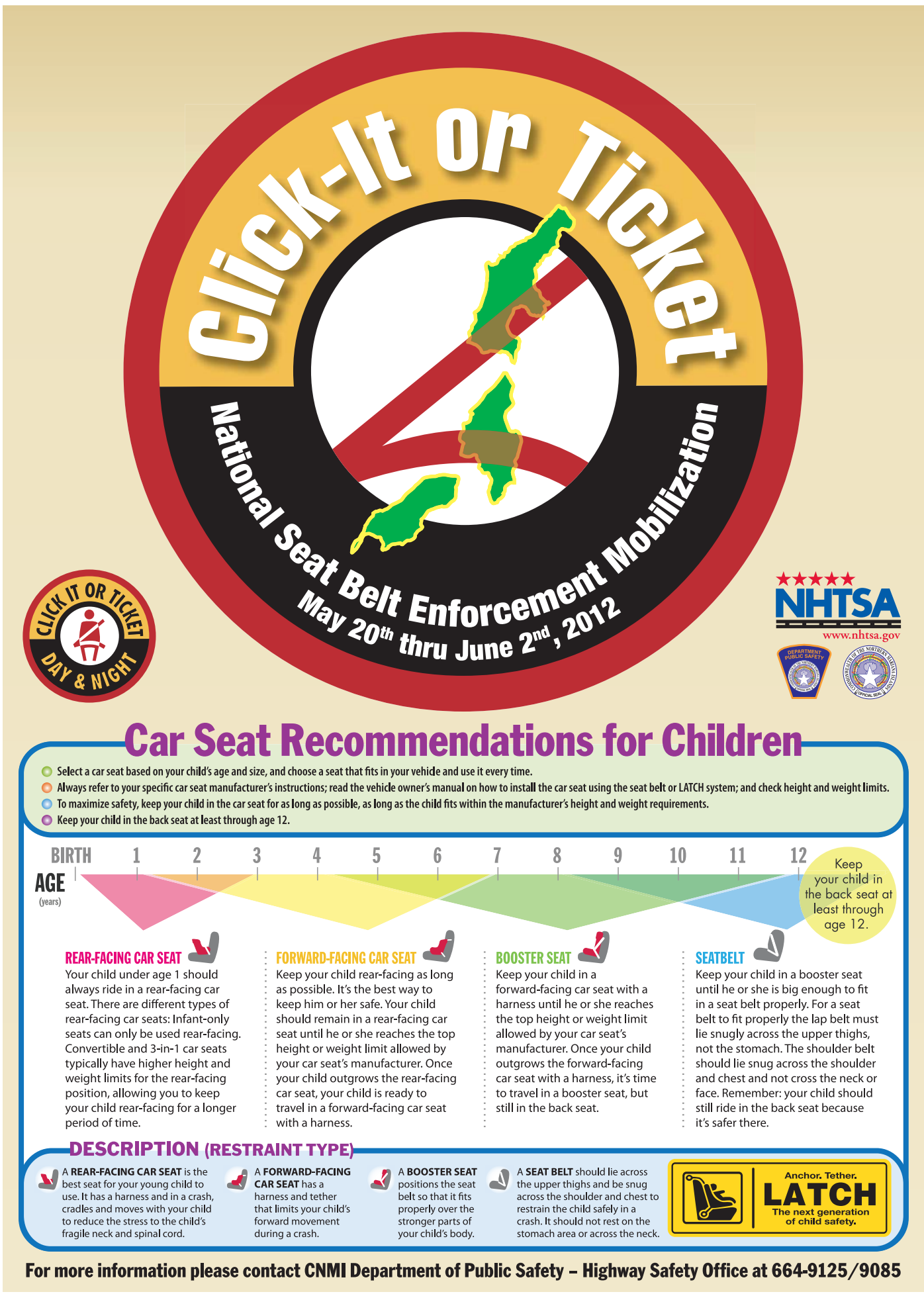
"When you think of responsibility, it should not be more than seven. But our directors have 20 each! How can you be directing 20 units? Seven units is doable…but not 20," Muña said, adding that this system no longer work.

She pointed out that the "disconnect" has been identified by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a serious issue that causes the noncompliance of the public hospital in many areas.

Muna's proposal was among the agenda tackled by the board in an executive session Friday noon. No decision has been made yet. During the open session, board chair Joaquin Torres said that, although he has concerns, he has decided not to get involved in the issue and just leave the matter to the interim CEO.

Vice chair Pete Dela Cruz, for his part, said that the medical staff should be given direct access to the COO. Muña said this is now being considered in the new design, along with the DMA, which used to be under the hospital services director's coverage.

According to federal consultant Dr. Poki Stewart Namkung, 80 percent of the managers and directors at the hospital are doing well in their jobs and can perfectly execute their duties and responsibilities as expected if they are properly guided by management.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Repatriation for Corpuz OK'd

A Filipino worker confined at the Commonwealth Health Center for almost two months now due to a spinal cord injury is finally going home.

Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam confirmed yesterday that the request for medical repatriation of Marwin Corpuz has been approved by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

He is set to board a Manila-bound plane in the early morning of Friday, May 24.

The consul said that DFA approved $8,000 for Corpuz's needs, which will cover six airplane tickets plus another for the nurse who will accompany him back to the Philippine capital.

Due to his back injury, Corpuz will make the trip lying down, necessitating the blocking out of six airplane seats.

According to Auxilian, the $8,000 came from DFA's Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant and Workers Affairs.

He wished Corpuz a speedy recovery and thanked Filipinos and other nationalities on Saipan for helping him financially and spiritually during his ordeal.

Corpuz said he is relieved that he can finally return to the Philippines and seek treatment for his back injury. He also thanked the DFA, the consulate general in Guam, the United Filipino Organization, and friends and those who just know him by name for all their help.

Through the help of friends and other Filipinos on Saipan, the $1 fund drive for Corpuz managed to cobble together $5,300 that will be used for other expenses he might incur here and the return trip to the Philippines.

UFO president Annamae Adaza thanked DFA and the consulate general in Guam for coming through and granting Corpuz's wish to be medically repatriated back home.

She said she already knew since May 11 that Corpuz's request had been approved by DFA when Auxilian told her but she decided not to make it public until Corpuz's flight itinerary was finalized.

While his repatriation has been taken cared of, there is no word yet on who will pay for Corpuz's medical bills at CHC.

Corpuz promised that after he fully recovers from his injury, he will make it a point to repay—to the last dime—whatever he owes the hospital.

The former Saipan Oceanview Hotel waitstaff was injured last March 26 after falling from the rooftop of a second-story building while helping a friend move to a new apartment.

The 42-year-old father of two and a native of Sta. Rosa, Laguna sustained a fracture in his lumbar spine.

Since the local hospital has no orthopedic surgeon or other specialist to take care of his injury, it was recommended that he be flown to a Manila hospital for further treatment.

Since CNMI employers are no longer required by law to shoulder their staff's medical expenses, Corpuz had no recourse but to seek the help of the consulate general in Guam.

His situation was compounded by his expired membership in the country's Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, a Philippine government agency that provides insurance and repatriation assistance for overseas Filipino workers. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Processing of contracts, procurement deals stopped at CPA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors suspended yesterday all financial transactions and activities at the agency, based on a memorandum issued to outgoing executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

Jose Lifoifoi's memo was directly addressed to Deleon Guerrero, who is now barred from making any decision on matters related to the agency, particularly on contracts and procurement deals, among others.

"Effective immediately, contracts, procurement requests, all personnel actions, travel authorizations or requests, and other matters initiated by you are suspended," Lifoifoi's directive states.

Deleon Guerrero was fired by the board last week. He has asked that he be allowed to work for 10 more days to complete all necessary paperwork. That 10-day period ends on Thursday, May 24.

According to Lifoifoi, the memorandum is to provide Deleon Guerrero with instructions during the period that he is terminating his employment with CPA.

Also yesterday, Lifoifoi informed ports personnel that the executive director post, which will officially be vacated on May 24, will be temporarily filled by MaryAnn Q. Lizama, the agency's ports manager on Saipan.

"To ensure a smooth transition, [Deleon Guerrero] will work with Ms. Lizama prior to his departure. Ms. Lizama will then take the helm as CPA's acting executive director thereafter and will remain as such up until a permanent executive director is appointed," Lifoifoi's memorandum states.

Besides Deleon Guerrero's termination, the board also voted not to renew the $75,000 contract of comptroller Derek Sasamoto. He was given 30 days to vacate the pos. No interim replacement has been named yet. As of yesterday, Sasamoto has yet to comment on the matter.

The executive director post, along with the comptroller position, will be announced later.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that the board may likely appoint former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente to the position.

Sources disclosed that the termination and non-renewal of the two officials' contracts came about due to allegedly "unsatisfactory performances."

Saipan Tribune learned that Lizama will appoint as early as next week a temporary replacement for Sasamoto.

Sasamoto's contract expired in March this year while Deleon Guerrero's contract was due to expire in December 2013.

It was learned that an internal investigation is being conducted at CPA in connection with allegations of wrongdoing. Among the issues being probed are hiring practices and allegedly questionable award of contracts.

Lifoifoi declined to comment about the "internal probe" when asked for comment yesterday.

CPA is an autonomous agency that operates all the islands' airports and seaports. It has a little over 200 employees on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Most of its projects are funded by the federal government through the Federal Aviation Administration's airport improvement project program.

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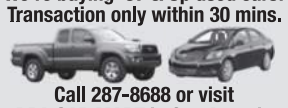
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Ogumoro refuses to enter plea

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the advice by his lawyer, former Department of Public Safety commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro refused to enter a plea yesterday on charges that he conspired with others to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons in August last year.

Ogumoro

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman entered a not guilty plea on behalf of Ogumoro.

Ogumoro appeared in court with his counsel, attorney Douglas Cushnie, who told *Saipan Tribune* that Ogumoro refused to enter a plea upon his advice.

Wiseman set a status conference for May 28.

Meanwhile, Wiseman postponed yesterday to May 28 the arraignment and status conference in the case against Commonwealth Ports Authority's Capt. Juan T. Rebuenog.

The judge delayed the hearing after attorney Colin Thompson asked for more time as he had just been retained as counsel for Rebuenog.

The Office of Public Auditor filed 15 criminal charges against Ogumoro and 13 charges against Rebuenog.

OPA also filed seven criminal charges against former governor Benigno R. Fitial, 15 charges against CPA police chief Jordon Kosam, and 11 criminal charges against Fitial's former personal driver and bodyguard, Jermaine Joseph W. Nekaifes.

The Office of the Attorney General has asked the CNMI Supreme Court to order the Superior Court to stop the criminal actions against Ogumoro and other defendants in the alleged conspiracy case.

Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas and assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington filed a petition for a writ of mandamus or prohibition after questioning the constitutionality of Wiseman's order disqualifying the entire OAG from the case without notice or opportunity to respond.

PSS wants to be reimbursed for trip expenses of national team

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education officials want the Public School System reimbursed for the funds it spent to send the CNMI Mock Trial team to the national competition.

This comes after the enactment of a new local law, Saipan Local Law 18-1, which appropriates $15,000 for the travel expenses of the mock trial group that went to Indiana early this month.

According to Lucy Blanco-Maratita, chairperson of the Board of Education's legislative and intergovernmental affairs committee, and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D., PSS processed the travel authorization documents on April 24 for 12 individuals to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana. The group consisted of eight students and teacher-coaches.

The two officials, in their letter to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, disclosed that PSS funded the trip to the tune of $26,285.

"In light of the fact that PSS is already paying for the Mock Trial Team's expenses to the National High School Mock Trial Championship, is this appropriation intended to be a reimbursement for PSS expenses to send the CNMI team to the national competition? If it is not intended as a reimbursement, then what is the intent of the bill considering that PSS is already shouldering this cost of the official team?" asked Blanco-Maratita and Sablan.

They said that PSS welcomes the reimbursement so that it can save the funds for other upcoming student competitions.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed the local law early this month, re-appropriating $322,844 for different Saipan projects. Under this law, $15,000 was appropriated for the CNMI Mock Trial team.

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Trader wanted in Korea arrested on Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal agents arrested on Saipan Friday a businessman who has two outstanding arrest warrants in South Korea for allegedly defrauding two persons of about 530,830,000 Korean won ($477,632.03) and defrauding some Korean nurses by falsely promising them jobs in Guam.

Federal agents arrested Jae Boong Kim after the U.S. government, on behalf of the South Korean government, filed a complaint for extradition against Kim.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued the arrest warrant for Kim after the U.S. government filed a sealed extradition complaint.

Manglona unsealed the complaint on Friday.

At the hearing, Kim asked to be released so he could secure his documents and business before his extradition. He also stated that he intends to hire attorney Stephen Woodruff as his counsel.

Manglona denied Kim's request for release and continued the hearing for yesterday.

Woodruff filed yesterday a motion for Kim's release.

Woodruff said that Kim will be available for all hearings and for extradition should the federal court ultimately issue a warrant of extradition.

The lawyer said his client may also waive extradition in order to return to Korea and personally resolve these matters.

Woodruff said that Kim, who has a wife and a young U.S. citizen daughter, is not a flight risk and has been living on Saipan since 2006.

Woodruff said that Kim has large investments in the CNMI, including a new one that is being placed at risk by these proceedings.

Woodruff said it is common for persons in Korea having some dispute over money or property, or some unsettled indebtedness, to go to the prosecutors and make a complaint with the aim of gaining an advantage or forcing a favorable settlement in what is properly a civil matter.

In one complaint, Woodruff said it details the fraud allegations of a self-declared jilted lover and her mother.

The lawyer said that Kim admits that he borrowed money from the two persons described in the complaint, but with the intent to fully repay them.

In fact, Woodruff said, Kim did repay a substantial portion of these funds and that he still owes them about $300,000.

Woodruff said the second complaint sets forth a contention that Kim defrauded some Korean nurses by falsely promising them jobs at Guam Memorial Hospital and failing to deliver.

The lawyer said the complaint informs that Kim was to place 15 nurses at GMH, yet only three are complaining of alleged fraud.

"The reason for this is simple: the other 12 were hired by GMH," Woodruff said.

The complaint, Woodruff added, fails to acknowledge that Kim refunded a portion of the fees by the unsuccessful candidates.

Assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz asked the court to deny Kim's request for bail.

Cruz said that Kim is being sought by authorities in Korea for indictment and prosecution for fraud and forgery.

DPL

From Page 1

which are expiring in four to 12 years.

Tenorio, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said that Kan Pacific/Marianas Resort & Spa in Marpi has only four years left on its land lease.

Hyatt Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort & Spa, both in Garapan, have eight years each left on their land leases, Tenorio said.

Kanoa Resort in Susupe, meanwhile, has 12 years left on its lease, he added.

Tenorio wrote separate letters to these hotels on Friday. He has yet to receive a response from any of them.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos separately said yesterday that once these hotels express interest in extending their land leases, DPL will discuss the requirements with them and present them to the Legislature for approval.

Any lease of public land consisting of more than 5 hectares requires the Legislature's approval.

"Hopefully these hotel developments can plan for expansion and get those things going way before the expiration of the lease," the governor said, as he pointed out the importance of advanced planning, especially for investors.

Inos said this was also discussed in yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

The DPL secretary said his separate letters seek to find out whether the hotel owners are willing to consider extending their leaseholds at this time.

"I trust that you would want, or hope for a possible extension so that you can continue your operation, instead of turning in your leasehold to the CNMI government upon its expiration," Tenorio said in his letter to individual hotels.

Tenorio said DPL encourages hotel owners "to invest their resources in their leaseholds."

While lease extension approval rests with the Legislature, he said that DPL is optimistic that the Legislature will approve the requests.

"DPL will do its best effort to obtain this approval as it believes that there are potential financial and other benefits to be derived by the CNMI government. Other mutually agreed upon improvements will be recommended, depending on the owners' responses as to whether or not they will consider this approach," Tenorio told hotel owners.

The department also welcomes voluntary proposals from hotel owners on additional improvements, incentives, and investments on their public land premises.

RFPs for public lands

In related news, Tenorio said that DPL will publish as early as this week the first request for proposals for public lands available for development.

Tenorio said the first one to be advertised is the same lot in Marpi that Flame Sako earlier leased but later abandoned for a planned $60 million to $80 million hotel on 109,003 square meters of land.

"We're all set. We're just waiting for approval from the Procurement and Supply Division. The first one to be RFP'd is the Marpi area," he said.

The second lot to be advertised is a more than 5-hectare property in San Antonio. KSA Corp. once leased this land from DPL to build a hotel with villas and condotels. The project didn't materialize, resulting in DPL terminating the lease with KSA Corp. in June 2008.

Tenorio said there will also be available public lands for the development of new golf courses on Saipan.

"But those would be RFP'd later," he added.

DPL deputy secretary Pete Itibus earlier said that, by soliciting proposals, DPL will not only weed out fly-by-night investors holding up public lands that could have been developed by other investors, but also to get the best offer among competing and legitimate investors.

The department has seen anywhere between $30 million and $1 billion in proposed hotel resort development on public lands, only for the plans to fizzle out when investors fail to secure financing, fail to pay their land leases to the department, and then abandon the whole project.

BAR

From Page 1

on five different parameters, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest.

Quichocho received the lowest average score of 1.26 on integrity.

He obtained a 1.69 score for professional competence; 1.45 for judicial temperament; and 1.51 for service to the law and contribution to the effective administration of justice.

A score of 1 means "unacceptable," which means the judicial nominee seldom meets minimum standards of performance.

Bar members who participated in the evaluation were also asked how they know Quichocho.

All evaluating members except for two stated that they know Quichocho from direct professional experience.

A lawyer, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, believes that Quichocho's evaluation drew the largest number of participation in the history of the CNMI Bar.

"All Quichocho's scores are complete failures, especially the lowest score in integrity," the lawyer pointed out.

Quichocho's highest score was for experience, at 2.43. This score, however, means "deficient," or does not always meet minimum standards of performance.

The "acceptable" rating is 3, which means the nominee meets the minimum standards of performance.

A "good" rating is 4, which means the nominee often exceeds the minimum standards of performance.

The highest rating is "excellent" or 5, which means the nominee consistently exceeds minimum standards of performance.

Quichocho earlier stated that the CNMI Bar has the right to send out surveys or evaluation forms to its members.

"I, however, have seen the evaluation form and it seems very subjective. So the final evaluation result will be totally dependent on how many lawyers that favor me and how many lawyers that oppose me submit the forms," he said.

According to Bar Association administrative director Suzanne M. Steffy, 43 Bar members completed and submitted the evaluation forms on Quichocho's nomination.

The Association has approximately 200 active members, about 100 of whom primarily practice law in the CNMI.

Of those 100 active CNMI-based lawyers, about 40 are employees of the government in various capacities, Steffy said.

The Bar created the evaluation process for judicial nominees and candidates for judicial retention in 2002, saying it is in the interest of the people of the CNMI to have judicial officers of the highest caliber. The Association said elected officials should have the information necessary to make reasoned decisions about whether candidates for judicial offices should be nominated and confirmed.

Recently, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz confirmed that he filed a complaint of unethical conduct before the Bar Association against Quichocho. He refused to elaborate, saying he would send a press release detailing most of those issues.

Sources disclosed that a lawyer, on behalf of the CNMI Bar Association, also filed last week in Superior Court a sealed complaint against Quichocho.

Sources said the complaint involved Tinian Mayor Dela Cruz's allegations of breach of fiduciary duties against the lawyer.

MIGRATION

From Page 1

20th centuries," said Thomas Mesenbourg, the Census Bureau's senior adviser. "This projected milestone reflects the mix of our nation's declining fertility rates, the aging of the baby boomer population and continued immigration."

The three new projections cover the period from 2012 to 2060. These alternative series complete the official set of 2012 National Population Projections, which began with the middle series projections released in December 2012. All four series maintain the same methodology and fertility and mortality assumptions, and differ only in the levels of net international migration they assume. They are broken out by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin.

"Projections of international migration are challenging to produce, because it is difficult to anticipate future social, political, and economic conditions and how they may influence migration into or out of the United States," notes Census Bureau demographer Jennifer Ortman. "Developing this range of alternative projections shows how differing levels of net international migration alter the pace at which the U.S. population grows, ages, and diversifies."

Higher international migration would mean a faster growing, more diverse, and younger U.S. population. The December 2012 series projected net international migration to increase from 725,000 in 2012 to 1.2 million in 2060. In contrast, the alternative measures are considerably different:

- The low series would increase annual levels of net international migration slightly from 702,000 in 2012, to 824,000 in 2060.
- The high series would increase net international migration from 747,000 in 2012 to 1.6 million by 2060.
- The final series projects a constant level of net international migration of 725,000 throughout the 2012-2060 period.

The high series projects that the U.S. population will hit 400 million by 2044, earlier than the 2051 date the December series projected. The high series also projects that the U.S. resident population will become majority-minority by 2041, two years earlier than the December projection of 2043. In other words, less than 50 percent of the population will be non-Hispanic single-race white.

The share of the population that is working age (18 to 64 years old) is projected to decrease in all four series by 2060. The high series projects the smallest decrease in the share of the population in working ages (from 62.7 percent in 2012 to 57.3 percent in 2060). The share of the working-age population would drop in the December 2012 middle series from 62.7 percent in 2012 to 56.9 percent of the total in 2060. In each of the four series (including the December 2012 projections), the population 65 and older would rise from 13.7 percent in 2012 to more than 20 percent in 2060.

The high series also projects that the minority population—all people except for those that are non-Hispanic, single-race white—would climb from 37 percent of the total in 2012 to 58.8 percent in 2060. In contrast, the U.S. minority population would reach 55.9 percent in the low series. ***(U.S. Census)***

FUEL

From Page 1

is $4.90 a gallon for regular unleaded gasoline on Saipan. Tinian and Rota prices are up to $6-plus.

"I would be inquiring with Mobil and Shell about this. Why are American Samoa's fuel prices a lot cheaper when our fuel comes from the same area—Singapore," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

He also said "there should be a market study/assessment of the rising prices and what differs from place to place. I will officially solicit inquiries about this."

Deleon Guerrero is sharing the same concerns raised by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In a letter to Deleon Guerrero, CUC said as of Friday, "retail gasoline prices in American Samoa are nearly $1 less per gallon than in Saipan."

"The current fuel supply contract in American Samoa is with Exxon Mobil. I believe American Samoa and Saipan fuel comes from the same port, Singapore, and shipping costs to American Samoa should be higher than Saipan since it is farther from Singapore than Saipan. American Samoa imposes a $0.35/gallon fuel tax at time of import. I believe the fuel tax in the CNMI is $0.15. So, the big question is, why is gasoline so much less expensive in American Samoa," CUC said.

Gas prices in the CNMI are among, if not the highest, on American soil.

Deleon Guerrero also said he hopes CUC will lower its power rates this month.

"If they are going to lower the LEAC by 20 cents, that would be a big help," Deleon Guerrero added.

LEAC stands for levelized energy adjustment clause and is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other component of the bill is the electric base rate.

CHC confirms 3 cases of ARDS; 1 death recorded

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officials of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. disclosed yesterday that the public hospital has had three confirmed cases of adult respiratory distress syndrome, or ARDS, of which one patient has died.

Health officials assured, however, that there is no flu outbreak on island. The ARDS cases were also described as completely different and separate from the novel avian influenza A (H7N9 flu) virus.

» Corporation execs say there is no outbreak; ARDS different, separate issue from H7N9 flu

ARDS is a life-threatening reaction to injuries or acute infection of the lung. It is a severe lung syndrome with direct and indirect causes.

Interim CEO Esther Muña disclosed that the first case was admitted to the hospital on May 13 while the second case was brought in on May 16, both of them pregnant women.

Both underwent Caesarian operations so they could safely deliver their babies. The infants were immediately placed in ventilators.

The third case, a middle-aged man, was admitted on May 14 and died on May 17.

To date, both mothers are in good condition, along with their newborns, who are no longer in ventilators, health officials said.

The definitive cause of the third patient's death remains unknown at this time.

Muña said that all three patients are from different villages on Saipan and have no direct contact with one another.

In a briefing yesterday, epidemiologist Ed Diaz disclosed that all three cases have been investigated and there was no evidence at this time that links the cases to the H7N9 flu virus. Investigation, however, will continue and in consultation with the U.S. Centers for Disease and Control.

According to intensive care unit nurse supervisor Wilma Gamundoy, this was not the first time for the hospital to admit ARDS cases. Because of underlying causes, she said it is not unusual to see patients with ARDS. Gamundoy described the symptoms of ARDS as flu-like symptoms with coughing and fever.

"It's flu season and we want to encourage everyone to take extra precaution to prevent flu. Flu vaccine is the single best way to protect them from the flu virus and we would like to encourage the public to get their flu shots," Muña said.

Among those that are considered high-risk for the flu virus are pregnant women, individuals with chronic diseases, the elderly, and young children from 0-36 months.

According to federal consultant Dr. Poki Stewart Namkung, there's no definitive diagnosis on the three cases. Although preliminary tests yielded negative results on the influenza virus, more tests need to be done. Namkung said the hospital hasn't found a bacterial source yet for these cases.

Namkung said the causes of ARDS can be chemical, toxic, bacterial, or viral. What it does, she added, is essentially destroy the ability of the lungs to breath.

Division of Public Health director Roxanne Diaz emphasized the importance of the corporation's Flu WATCH campaign to avoid contracting the flu virus. She said the community should be vigilant while taking pro-active approaches to fight the virus.

WATCH stands for the following: wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds; avoid sick people and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; teach others how to prevent the flu; cover your coughs and sneezes; and have an emergency plan ready in case you or a family member gets sick.

Also present at yesterday's news briefing were hospital immunization program manager Jeremy Sasamoto, Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel, and Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez.

CDA authorization to float POB clears House panel

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A House panel has recommended passage of a bill authorizing the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue pension obligation bonds of "up to $300 million" to pay for the government's obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund. The full House may act on the bill today.

This comes six months since voters approved during the Nov. 6 elections a legislative initiative amending Article 10 of the NMI Constitution to allow the issuance of a pension obligation bond.

The Special Committee on Retirement, chaired by Rep. Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan), at the same time listed at least 13 CNMI public laws that gave "very generous and expensive retirement benefits to its members."

These included laws signed from the 3rd to the 15th Legislature.

» At least 13 'very generous' retirement benefits cited

Among them were PL 3-99 that increased benefits paid to Fund members, PL 7-39 that offered a generous cost of living allowance or COLA to annuitants, PL 7-40 that allowed for limited "double dipping" by government employees, and PL 8-30 that established an early retirement incentive.

Others were PL 8-31 that provided COLA increase, PL 11-95 that permitted retirees to receive survivor benefits in addition to other benefits, and PL 15-98 that authorized members with 15 years of service to withdraw their contributions.

The Special Committee on Retirement recommended the passage of Rep. John Paul Sablan's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 18-50 in the form of House Draft 1.

The panel made technical amendments to the bill to reflect its intent, including clarification on the bill's title to reflect that the proposed pension obligation bond is "up to $300 million."

The Fund's lifespan is expected to last only until March 2014, unless an immediate infusion of major cash is made.

If CDA is able to float a bond, whether $100 million or $300 million, for example, that would all be remitted to the Fund.

The proposed amended bill says the bond authorization "serves a public purpose and does not create an additional liability" on the CNMI's part. It would only substitute a bond obligation for a judgment obligation.

Under the bill, CDA, on behalf of the CNMI, is authorized to issue, in one or more series, "at one time or from time to time" up to $300 million worth of general obligation bonds of the Commonwealth to fund the government's liability to the Fund.

More somber Memorial Week with 2 Guam soldiers' deaths

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated center, is flanked by cancer survivors, their families and advocates during yesterday's proclamation signing declaring May 27 to June 2 CNMI Cancer Survivors Week and June 2 National Cancer Survivors Day.

The death of two Guam soldiers in Afghanistan on Thursday makes the Marianas' observance of Memorial Week more somber than it already is, according to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs director Vicente Camacho.

Inos signed a proclamation yesterday declaring May 20 to 27 Memorial Week, to be capped by a Memorial Day ceremony on May 27, Monday.

"It is unfortunate. I hope there won't be any more of that. The CNMI is so involved in the National Guard and this is the first time that so many from the Marianas were deployed at once," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said these "fallen heroes" have made the "ultimate sacrifice" in defense of freedom.

The governor, Camacho and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter director John Hirsh said yesterday they have yet to receive word whether any soldier from the CNMI was also hurt in the incident in Kabul, Afghanistan that claimed the lives of Cpl. Dwayne W. Flores of Sinajana and Sgt. Eugene M. Aguon of Mangilao in Guam.

Aguon and Flores were part of a group of about 600 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment that left Guam in early March for training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi before deploying to Afghanistan in April.

Of the estimated 600 soldiers, 16 are from the CNMI.

For over two centuries, Americans have defended the nation's security and protected the founding principles of democracy and equal justice under law.

"On Memorial Day, we honor those who have paid the ultimate price in defense of these freedoms," the governor's proclamation reads. "From the first shots fired at Lexington and Concord to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, these brave patriots have taken on great risks to keep us safe, and they have served with honor and distinction. All Americans who have enjoyed the blessings of peace and liberty remain in their debt."

The governor said May 20 to 27 is a Memorial Week of prayer for permanent peace and to pay tribute to fallen veterans for their unselfish, dedicated service in defending the country.

» Proclamation honors cancer survivors

At yesterday's proclamation signing, the governor noted that there are only a few veterans present. Camacho said there would be more of them at the Memorial Day event on Monday.

Camacho said because of sequestration, a series of across-the-board cuts in federal spending, there won't be a flyby at this year's Memorial Day ceremony, among other things.

He also said that the keynote speaker that earlier confirmed attendance at the ceremony may not be able to come, following last week's deaths of two soldiers from Guam.

Nevertheless, Camacho and other veterans present yesterday said they expect a meaningful Memorial Day ceremony.

Honoring cancer survivors

The governor also signed a proclamation yesterday declaring May 27 to June 2 CNMI Cancer Survivors Week and June 2 National Cancer Survivors Day.

A cancer survivor is defined as anyone living with a history of cancer—from the moment diagnosed through the remainder of life.

According to cancer survivors and advocates, there are at least 239 active, productive cancer survivors in the CNMI and they hope more will come out. In the U.S., there are nearly 12 million cancer survivors.

Cancer survivors, advocates and supporters said during yesterday's proclamation signing that the Commonwealth Cancer Association has been a big source of help to cancer survivors and their families through their programs and activities, in addition to government efforts.

Richard Pierce, a cancer survivor and the current executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, shared during the proclamation signing his experiences as a cancer survivor in the CNMI and the help extended by entities such as CCA.

Officials also called on for increased access to quality cancer care, screening, prevention and patient navigation, especially among the medically underserved.

PDM Promoters receives $2K donation from TSL Foundation

A community group known for its cultural dance group and for keeping the Paseo de Marianas spick-and-span throughout the year recently received a $2,000 donation from the TSL Foundation.

PDM Promoters, Inc. representative Sonia Awa said the donation will go a long way in funding their group's various projects and campaigns in 2013.

"We would like to thank them for the invaluable support they provide throughout the year that help us support the various programs of PDM Promoters, Inc, such as the Garapan monthly cleanup, Christmas Event at Paseo de Marianas, Saipan Awaodori Team programs, and new initiatives," she said.

TSL Foundation manager Maggie Sablan said they greatly appreciate and supports PDM Promoters' purpose and dedication to enhance the CNMI's public image through cultural performances.

"While these are strides made to entice our tourists, it is also an opportunity for our youth and local community to be part of the promotion and entertainment. TSL Foundation is proud to donate to this worthy cause," she said.

Sablan said she is quite impressed with the time taken by the coordinators, the dance directors, and the performers themselves to perfect their dances.

"The dances are not easy as they seem to follow certain specifications per culture, but each participant is very dedicated and works hard to perfect their performance despite the rain or torturous heat. With this training, you can be sure the dances are expressed deep in its culture," she added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori children members and PDM Promoters, Inc. CEO and director Misako Kamata receive a check in the amount of $2,000 from TSL Foundation manager Maggie S. Sablan.

PDM Promoters' Saipan Awaodori Team is made up of local children from 5 to 17 years old.

"Every year we bring to Japan at least six members to join and perform at the yearly Awaodori Festival in Koenji Tokyo, Japan that is held every third week of August. We coordinate with their performances on various events and occasions."

In all, the Saipan Awaodori Team has 40 members and it's still open for registration, while PDM Promoters has 20 volunteers from Kinpachi Restaurant.

PDM Promoters also hold monthly cleanups at the Paseo de Marianas and adjacent environs and Awa said they collect up to 1,000 lbs of trash during these drives, which the Division of Environmental Quality appreciates very much.

"Some business establishments at the Paseo de Marianas also cooperate with us by cleaning in front of their establishments," she added.

The organization is also in charge of the yearly Christmas tree decoration contest at the Paseo de Marianas that runs for the whole month of December.

Awa said this year will be the eighth year PDM Promoters is organizing the event. It includes a Christmas tree decoration contest among public and private elementary schools, a Christmas drawing competition for elementary schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and the setting up of a jumbo Christmas tree at the heart of Paseo de Marianas.

After Christmas, the organization hosts the Mochitsuki Festival, also at Paseo de Marianas. Already in its fifth year, the festival is a Japanese tradition to welcome the New Year.

Aside from the TSL Foundation, other major sponsors of PDM Promoters are DFS Galleria Saipan and Docomo Pacific. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Grace Poe tops midterm election for senators among Pinoys in Marianas

Grace Poe topped the 2013 Philippine midterm elections for senators among Filipino voters in the CNMI and Guam, according to results tabulated by the Philippine Consulate General in Guam.

Poe, the daughter of the late Philippine movie icon Fernando Poe Jr., garnered 1,585 votes, 23 votes more than second placer Chiz Escudero.

Allan Peter Cayetano (1,478), Loren Legarda (1,412), and Benigno "Bam" Aquino (1,324) complete the Top 5 in the Marianas.

The rest of the Top 15 vote-getters for senatorial elections are: Koko Pimentel (1,295), Rosa Hontiveros (1,241), Antonio Trillanes IV (1,135), Edgardo Angara (1,106), Dick Gordon (943), Gringo Honasan (803), Jamby Madrihal (645), Juan Ponce Enrile Jr. (613), Teddy Casino (600), and Ed Hagedorn (573)

For the party-list race, the OFW Family Club, Inc. received the highest number of votes with a total of 505 votes, followed by Migrante with 117 votes and Alyansa ng OFW Party, which got 111 votes.

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam does not keep a separate tally of voting results in the CNMI and Guam, according to consul Edgardo Tomas Q. Auxilian.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam said it completed the canvassing of all votes it received just before midnight on May 14, 2013. The total number of ballots it received at the close of the voting period was 2,070.

Four Special Board of Election Inspectors, were activated to count the ballots shortly after the official close of the voting period. Counting of the ballots was done continuously until the early evening of May 14, when the election returns were submitted to the board.

After the canvassing, board chair and Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin flew to Manila on the morning of May 15 to deliver the Certificates of Canvass to the National Board of Canvassers of the Commission on Elections.

The consulate general noted that the voter turnout for both Guam and the CNMI was relatively high compared to most of the other jurisdictions in the Americas.

Voter turnout for Guam was 541 out of 2,744 registered voters or 19.72 percent, while that of the CNMI was 1,487 out of 4,482 or 33.18 percent.

The total voter turnout for the consulate general's jurisdiction was 2,028 out of the 7,226 total registered voters or 28.07 percent. The difference of 42 votes out of the 2,070 ballots received by the consulate were cast by voters who had been de-listed from the total number of registered voters for failing to vote in two consecutive elections but were nonetheless allowed to vote by the commission.

The consulate general also thanked the assistance of its media partners throughout the campaign to encourage voters to go to the polls.

In the CNMI, the consulate general thanked *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* as well as Jimmy Blancia or Jimmy B of Magic 100.3FM.

In Guam, the consulate general extended its appreciation to KTKB 101.9FM and its programs *Damdaming Pinoy, Kamusta Kabayan, Radio Breakfast Extreme Show* of DJ Doods Tuason, and *Flipside Happy Hapon Show* of DJ Migz San Miguel.

The consulate general also thanked the support of Filipino organizations on Saipan, particularly the United Filipino Organization, which aided the consulate general during the field voting a few days before the end of the elections.

The consulate general also thanked the Kristo Rai Parish, which became the venue of the field voting on Saipan from May 9 to 11, 2013, and the Agana Shopping Center, which was the venue of the field voting in Guam from April 27 to 28, 2013. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Tinian's Diaz to graduate cum laude from OSU

Mikaela H. Diaz of Tinian will graduate from the Oregon State University in June this year with cum laude honors for two bachelor's degrees, in Education and Liberal Studies.

Diaz will join an estimated 5,267 students who will receive degrees this spring at the144th annual commencement ceremony of Oregon State University on June 15, at Reser Stadium on campus. The ceremony begins at 10:30am.

OSU's commencement speaker is Brigadier Gen. Julie A. Bentz, who advises President Obama on national security issues. She is director of strategic capabilities policy on the National Security Staff and a 1986 graduate of OSU, where she received an ROTC commission and a degree in radiological health. Bentz is the first female officer from the Oregon Army National Guard to achieve the rank of general.

This will be the largest class to graduate from Oregon State University, which has seen record enrollments for several years. Despite the enormous class, OSU students will receive their actual diploma from OSU President Edward J. Ray and other officials during the ceremony—one of the few universities of its size to continue that tradition.

More information is available at OSU's commencement website at: http://oregonstate.edu/events/commencement/. ***(PR)***

'Chances of relocating 6 Uighurs from Palau slim'

Palau President Tommy Remengesau says the chances of formally relocating a group of former terror suspects living in Palau remain slim.

Six men from China's largely Muslim Xinjiang province were captured during the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan in 2001 and jailed in the Guantanamo Bay facility before being relocated to Palau in 2009.

The U.S. had not wanted to send the men back to China, where they are still considered terror suspects.

Remengesau says the agreement to house the Uighurs on Palau was only temporary and the money the U.S. gave the country to look after them is gone.

He says the men are miserable on Palau.

"We feel sorry for these people, we understand that they're not happy here, this is not their kind of environment to stay here on any long-term basis. They want to leave Palau and as much as our hospitality is there we can only sustain them for a period of time."

Remengesau says he hasn't heard anything from the U.S. about efforts to resettle the men, but Palau is unable to cope with them much longer.

The U.S. State Department never responded to requests for comment. ***(Radio New Zealand International)***

PATA MEETING MVA

The Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia Chapter executive committee members pay a courtesy visit to Gov. Eloy Inos of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on May 15, 2013. The chapter held its tri-annual meeting in Saipan on May 15-16. The chapter consists of national tourism offices of Micronesia and representatives of the private sector. Pictured in front row from left are Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio; Emelyn Simon, Marshall Islands Visitors Authority; Don Evans PATA Micronesia Chapter vice-chair, Inos, PATA Micronesia Chapter chair Pilar Laguana, Judy Torres, PATA Micronesia Chapter treasurer; Minoru Ueki; and Regina Nedlic, Guam Visitors Bureau. In back row from left are Kukulynn Gallen, Pohnpei Visitors Bureau; Lourdes Aguon Schulte, co-chair PATA Membership Committee; Bobbi Taitano, Mystic Travel and Adventure; Lourdes Sanchez, co-chair PATA Marketing Committee; Darin De Leon, PATA Micronesia Chapter secretary; and Vincent Calvo, MVA board of directors.

Judge reverses decision to cancel award of $2.1M contract

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has reversed the Office of the Public Auditor's decision that cancels the award of a contract to a company that made the lowest bid of $2.1 million for the CNMI Water Task Force's water lines leak project.

In an order Friday, Wiseman determined that U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd.'s bid was responsive to the invitation for bids. He directed the Water Task Force to award the contract to U.S.A. Fanter.

Wiseman said his ruling constitutes a final agency decision and resolves all issues to as to constitute a final judgment.

According to court records, the CNMI Water Task Force solicited bids in April 2012 for a project to detect and repair leaks in water lines between Tekken Street in Susupe and Orchid Street in Garapan.

U.S.A. Fanter's bid of $2,076,000.03 was the lowest bid. On Aug. 21, 2012, the director of Procurement and Supply issued a notice of intent to award the contract for the project to the company.

One of the three unselected bidders, GPPC Inc., protested the award, arguing that U.S.A. Fanter's bid should have been rejected because it was allegedly non-responsive.

Procurement and Supply denied GPPC's protest and confirmed the award to U.S.A. Fanter, finding the bid was responsive.

GPPC, through counsel Mark Hanson, appealed the director's decision to OPA, which granted the appeal and found U.S.A. Fanter's bid nonresponsive. OPA directed Procurement and Supply to cancel the award of the contract to U.S.A. Fanter and to award it instead to the next lowest bidder.

U.S.A. Fanter, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, filed a petition for judicial review of the OPA decision.

GPPC, in opposing the request for judicial review, argued that the court should defer to OPA's decision.

GPPC argued that U.S.A. Fanter's bid was defective because it needed a certification of a larger amount of bonding than First Net Insurance could provide.

In reversing the OPA's decision, Wiseman said although the surety could not issue bid bonds equal to the entire amount of the bid price on its own, it could do so with reinsurance.

Wiseman said a plain reading of the provision in the instructions to bidders indicates that all that was needed was a letter documenting the ability to issue the necessary bonds.

The provision, the judge noted, does not specify that the letter must provide information as to how the surety was capable of issuing such bonds, but merely that it was capable of doing so.

Further, Wiseman said, if there were any doubt regarding the provisions, the Water Task Force, the party requiring the letter in the first place, clarified to OPA, the parties in dispute, and other interested persons the purpose and intent of the solicitation requirements.

"The letter indicating, among other things, that the letter was not intended to test the surety's capability, but to test the contractor's ability to obtain bonding," Wiseman said.

Tinian seatbelt, car seat checkpoints scheduled

The Tinian Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting seatbelt and child seat checkpoints this upcoming weekend.

Certified child passenger safety technicians will be on hand to check car seats for proper installation and advice parents and caregivers on how to choose the right car seats and install them properly in their vehicles.

The first checkup event will be on May 25, 2013, at the fiesta grounds, from 10am to 1pm.

On May 29, 2013, there will be a OP/CR checkpoint. The first setup will be at the baseball field eastbound lane from 11am to 12:15pm. The second setup will be by Uncle Joe's intersection on the southbound lane, from 4pm to 5:15pm.

On May 30, 2013, the checkpoint will be by Huang Shung Supermarket on the eastbound lane, from 4pm to 5:15pm.

On May 31, 2013, the checkpoint will be by the baseball field, eastbound lane, from 11am to 12:15pm. ***(DPS)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-CHC/CGS-103

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 11, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE CHE'CHU LALAHI PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

THE COMPLETE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO HERBERT J. SABLAN NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 31, 2013** BY FAX TO (670) 236-8766 OR EMAIL AT **herbert.sablan@gmail.com** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE CNMI RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSALS IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BE COME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
INTERIM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that the Board will have a meeting on Friday, May 24, 2013. The meeting will be held at the Telemed Conference Room, Commonwealth Health Corporation, Saipan, commencing at 2:00 pm.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters –**
   1. Roll Call
II. **Call to Order**
III. **Adoption of Minutes –**
IV. **Adoption of Agenda**
   1. Adopted Rules & Regulations
   2. Amended Rules & Regulations
   3. Miscellaneous
V. **Board Executive Session:**
   1. NA program
   2. Online Clinical Preceptorship
VI. **Miscellaneous**
VII. **Adjournment**

/s/ Aurelia G. Long, NP
Chairperson

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **May 21**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **May 21**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **May 21**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

IT&E Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau – up to 6:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

NMC board's operational policies under review

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The operational policies of the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College are now undergoing review for effectiveness, according to its chairman, Juan T. Lizama.

The policy revisit, he said, is in consultation with Dr. Narcisa Polonio, the board's consultant. She is the executive vice president for education, research and board leadership services at the Association for Community College Trustees, or ACCT.

Polonio has been helping provide training and board development activities to the regents on a number of trustee issues. The latest was a conference in San Francisco that four regents and the president attended.

According to Lizama, the comprehensive review is part of the board's stepped-up efforts to overhaul some policies that may need revision or may be outdated.

Operational policies refer to those that deal directly with the Board of Regents and its operations. It covers board self-evaluation processes, regent conduct, policy adoption, committee structure, and others.

"The [Accrediting Commission for Community Junior Colleges] recommended that the governing board seek immediate advice on what it should do to come into compliance with all accreditation standards. We took this recommendation seriously and have been working with Dr. Narcisa Polonio of ACCT, as a result," according to Lizama.

Through a series of work sessions attended by members, the board has found the need to update a number of its operational policies to meet current needs, Lizama said.

"The work sessions have been very productive. I've been really impressed with the dedication and commitment of the regents. They know that their activities contribute directly to the college's accreditation efforts and are motivated to press on to resolve other concerns raised by the accreditation commission," he said.

The seven-member board is composed of Lizama, Elaine Orilla, Malua Peter, Michaela Sanchez, Frank Rabauliman, William Torres, and Andrew Orsini.

The college is currently on show-cause status with the accrediting commission. The institution remains accredited during this period.

The sanction was imposed in February after the college failed to rectify all deficiencies identified by the ACCJC. The institution has until Oct. 15 this year to resolve all these issues in its show-cause report. A decision will be known after the commission's assembly in January 2014.

POWER LUNCH SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Power 99 DJs and staff join Saipan Family Restaurant's Wayne Pangelinan, second from right, during a food sampling event last Wednesday at the newly opened hangout at the ground floor of the New Gold Beach Hotel along Beach Road in Garapan.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice to MHS parents

To all parents and legal guardians of the Mighty Dolphins of Marianas High School: We will be distributing the 4th Quarter Mid-Progress Report this Thursday, May 23, 2013, from 4pm to 6pm in the MHS Gymnasium. Students will be released at 1pm on this day to allow the school time to prepare for the event.

This Friday, May 24, 2013, there will be no school due to Professional Development for the staff.

If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting today

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be having a meeting today, May 21, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Notice to MHS graduating class

Marianas High School graduating seniors are being informed that your cap, gown, and tassels are in and available for pick up at the Main Office! Distribution schedule is as follows:

- Last names N – S : May 21
- Last names T – Z : May 22

Pick up times will be 7:30am to 8:30am and 3pm to 4:30pm. Full payment is required for your orders to be released. If you are not able to pay by the specified date, make arrangements with Ms. Tudela by calling the Main Office at 237-3206. ***(PR)***

CK Head Start notices

For Chalan Kanoa Head Start parents, there will be a free Parent Education Training for parents of children 0 to 5 years old on May 20 to May 31, 2013, starting at 6pm, at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria. Call Mona at 483-4398 for more information. ***(PR)***

Navy, Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 21-23 from 10:45am to 1pm, 3-5:15pm and 6:30-11:30pmThe Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 24-25 from 10:45am to 1pm and 3-5:15pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '88 meeting on May 23

This is to inform the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2013, 6:30pm at Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda's residence in As Lito. Your attendance at this meeting is very important as the topic of discussion will be the class' upcoming 25th year silver class reunion. ***(PR)***

FOA to stage 'Miss Saigon'

Miss Saigon comes to Saipan this month, courtesy of the Friends of the Arts. This newest staging of the acclaimed musical will take place on May 30 and 31 for the evening shows. June 1 and 2 have both matinee and evening shows. Show time for matinee begins at 3pm and evening shows begin at 7pm. The venue is the MHS Dolphin Theater. The cost is $15 for adult non-members, $12 for adult FOA members, $8 for students, and $5 for Thespian members.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 21, 2005

1.4M gallons of fuel underway

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. should have enough fuel to run its power generators through June, with the Governor's Office and CUC management succeeding yesterday in getting Mobil Oil Marianas deliver 1.4 million gallons of fuel to the power plants. Pursuant to the governor's declaration of a state of disaster emergency and his office's subsequent assumption of control of CUC, Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente and CUC executive director Lorraine Babauta entered negotiations with Mobil on Thursday through Friday. In a news statement, the Governor's Office reported that the negotiations had resulted in Mobil agreeing to deliver 1.4 million gallons of fuel to CUC on June 2, 2005. The fuel, which needed to be loaded in Singapore on Friday, should be enough to solve CUC's emergency needs.

House panel to monitor CUC emergency

Vice Speaker and House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications chair Timothy Villagomez said his panel will look closely at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. emergency situation. "I will call for a meeting of committee members next week to discuss this particular issue. We'll be looking at it very closely," said Villagomez yesterday. Villagomez, a former CUC executive director during the term of former governor Pedro P. Tenorio, is particularly concerned about the state of emergency's impact on the CUC board. "There's no functioning CUC board right now. They're out," he said. "Now I don't think they should get any per diem if they meet."

May 21, 2006

'Load shedding the result of overworked engines at CUC'

Administration officials said rotating power outages would continue due to overheating and broken engines at its main power plant, Power Plant I, in Lower Base. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Tony Guerrero said during Friday's news briefing at the Governor's Office that overheating is also caused by a malfunctioning cooling system. Guerrero also disclosed that the plant's newly repaired engine 8 is broken again, leaving only six engines to work round the clock. Engine 4 has remained down since last year due to a broken crankshaft. The government has a pending contract for the procurement and installation of these parts.

Better designs eyed for storm water drainage

CNMI and Guam environmental agencies are now collaborating on a manual for storm water drainage design in order to provide the best solution to reducing storm water runoff in the Pacific, especially the two island territories. In a news briefing held recently with Environmental Protection Agency representatives, Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman said the manual would be released soon. EPA Pacific Islands Office manager John McCarroll said the manual is closely related to a workshop that was recently held with the leadership of the DEQ early this month. The workshop aimed to come up with a better design to minimize and reduce storm water runoff in the CNMI. He said engineers and architects from Guam and the CNMI attended the workshop.

May 21, 2007

Fitial returns from Japan optimistic

After returning from a recent trip to Japan, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial expressed confidence in securing more flight capacity from the CNMI's biggest tourism market. "Although my recent trip has not resulted in a solid commitment for new flights into the Commonwealth, I am very optimistic that my trip laid the ground work for more flight service from Japan," he said. While in Japan, Fitial met with high-ranking Japanese government officials, including members of the Japanese Legislature and the deputy cabinet secretary of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration, Shimora Hakubon.

CDA urged to take it easy on borrowers

Senators are asking the Commonwealth Development Authority to be more lenient in dealing with borrowers having difficulty paying their loans. The Senate members last week wrote a letter urging CDA to revise its loan structuring program and offer additional relief to delinquent borrowers. Currently, CDA's program covers an interest rate reduction from 9 to 2 percent, restructuring of the loan including capitalized accrued interest by extending the repayment period to 30 years, and setting aside all current accrued interest to be separately amortized and paid at some future date. But this is not enough, according to the senators.

Island Snapshots

Above, Pacifica Insurance board of director Annie Sablan, second from right, and executive vice president Shirley Sablan, far right, is joined by Nanbo director Yoshiko Inoue-Robertson, far left, and members of the Inoue and Kuribayashi families during the Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. annual shareholder's and board of director's meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Pacifica Insurance executive vice president and general manager Shirley Sablan, board of director Pete "Sonny" Ada, and Nanbo shareholder Pedro Ada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSURANCE POWWOW CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Pacifica Insurance board of director Yukio Kuribayashi, Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Ltd. CEO Kentaro Kita, Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Ltd. president Nobuyuki Fukuzawa, Pacifica president Norman Tenorio, and Tokio Marine Holdings general manager Hiroyuki Endo have their picture taken during the Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. annual shareholder's and board of director's meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

TOURISM ADVOCATES MTEC

Chairwoman Vicky Benavente of Marianas Tourism Education Council speaks to students of Dandan Elementary about the importance of tourism on May 2, 2013.

NEW RIDE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Capt. Mark Santos of Auto Marine Inc. steers the CNMI's only semi-submarine, Nautilus Saipan, toward Outer Cove Marina Saturday morning. Unlike a commercial submarine, the 63-foot Nautilus Saipan stays on top of water while giving up to 49 tourist and resident passengers an underwater tour through its 35 viewing windows. With the CNMI's tourism industry picking up, owner Jefferson Santos says this is the best time to offer something new to visitors. The semi-sub starts operation this week. For information, contact 898-9358.

BEACH ROAD ACCIDENT FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Medics attend to Carol Mckenzie who sustained a lump in the head as her husband, Tom, looks on, shortly after a big branch from an old flame tree fell and smashed her car and two other vehicles parked in front of J's Restaurant Friday morning.

SAIPAN SON MEETS CLINTON

Far left, Wentworth Military Academy & College color guard members Edward S. Dela Cruz Jr., right, and Mark Becker pose with former president Bill Clinton, who received the Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award, during a Kansas City Luncheon at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Kansas City last May 8. Dela Cruz is a former student of Marianas High School and Northern Marianas College. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COLOR GUARD

Left, Wentworth Military Academy & College color guard members, including Edward S. Dela Cruz Jr., second from right, in a group photo with former president Bill Clinton at Marriott Hotel in downtown Kansas City last May 8. Clinton received the Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award during the Kansas City Luncheon. Dela Cruz, a former student of Marianas High School and Northern Marianas College, is a member of Wentworth Color Guard that performs each year in the presentation of colors to begin the Kansas City Luncheon ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The specter of human cloning

A breakthrough in stem-cell research has again raised the specter of human cloning. The discovery by a team at Oregon Health and Science University moves the world incrementally closer to that result, but its more immediate effect will be to spur efforts to regenerate healthy tissue for the injured and the ailing. Although it's reasonable to worry about where such a discovery may lead, those concerns shouldn't stop researchers from exploring the restorative properties of stem cells.

The promise of stem cells is that they can develop into many different kinds of tissues rather than being locked into a specific cellular fate. Researchers are using them to replicate and study diseased cells, and a few therapies involving stem cells are already in limited use.

The team at OHSU, which disclosed its work in a paper published online by Cell, created embryonic stem cells by replacing the nucleus in an unfertilized human egg with the nucleus from a skin cell, then harvesting the resulting stem cells. This long-sought technique may eventually let doctors create replacement cells for a wide variety of tissues from bits of a patient's own skin.

One advantage to this approach is that, unlike much of the initial work on stem cells, it doesn't require the destruction of human embryos. That practice drew fierce opposition from some religious leaders and right-to-life groups, although their criticism has faded as researchers switched to adult stem cells and, more recently, regular cells reprogrammed into stem cells through genetic engineering.

Some critics continue to argue that it's unethical to manipulate the genetic makeup of human eggs even if they're unfertilized, and others warn about potential harm to egg donors. The biggest ethical issue for the OHSU team, though, is that it artificially created a human embryo, albeit one that was missing the components needed for implantation and development as a fetus.

Much more research would have to be done before a lab could clone a viable, implantable human embryo, scientists say, and such studies would face real barriers at the Food and Drug Administration, the federal agencies that fund scientific research and the journals that publish it. There are also laws in several states, California among them, that bar human cloning. Still, the federal government needs to set rules that would stop researchers in this country from crossing the line between generating stem cells and trying to bring a cloned embryo to life. Adding a clear prohibition would help assure the public that stem cell research should be embraced, not feared.

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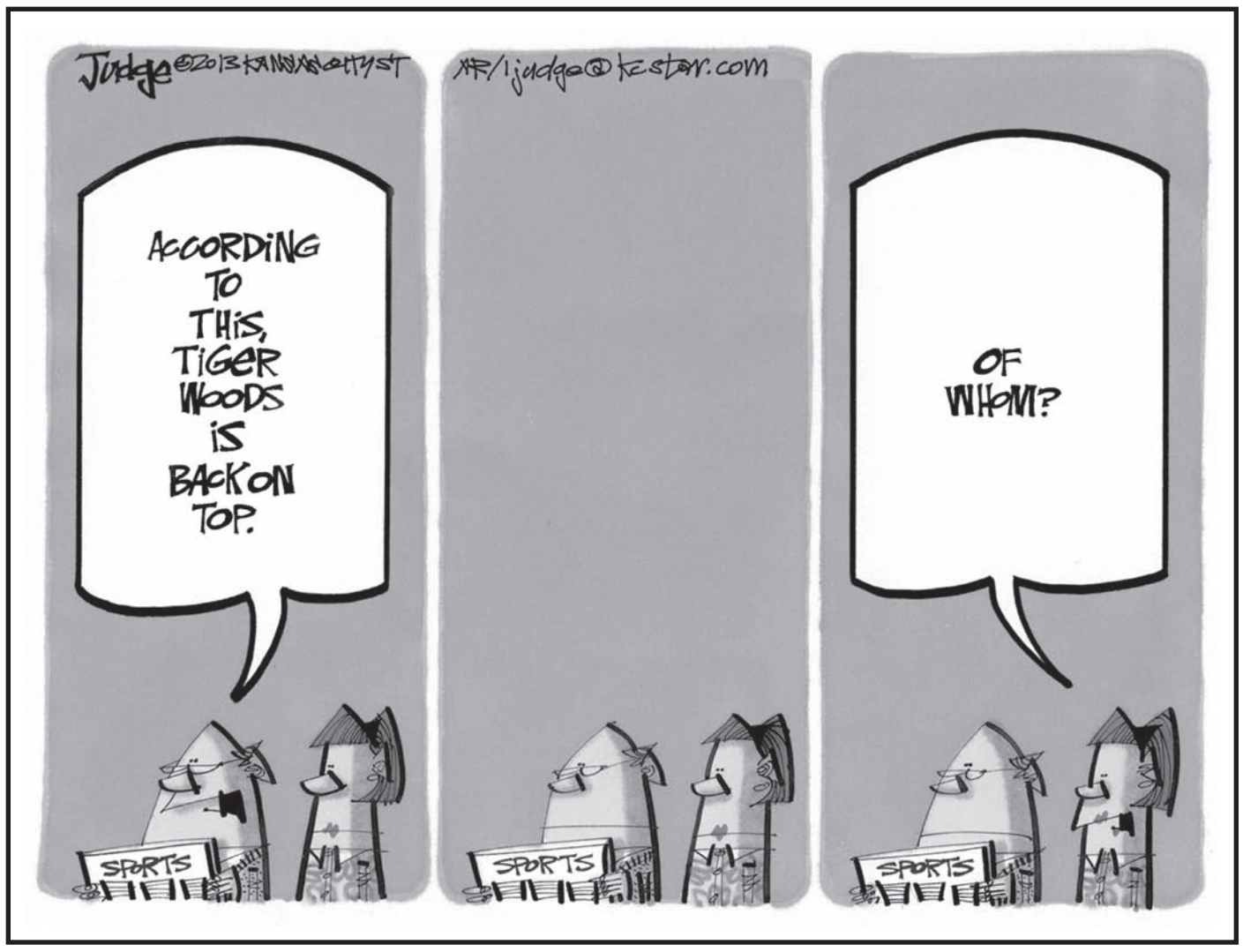
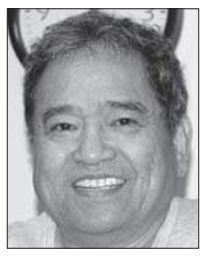


A candle for Janice

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



American Janice of our acquaintance formerly taught in the Philippines, then married a Filipino who worked for Eastman Kodak in Rochester, New York. They acted as guardians (an organizational and functional category) to a social movemental force I was an active member of in the '70s and the first half of the '80s, operating out of Chicago, Illinois. We performed as a global servant (word used intentionally rather than the neutral "service") force in human (economic, political, and social) community development.

The group labored under a highly intense social engagement for almost three decades, then organizational inertia and entropy set in, but the group had enough selfhood that when it realized its meeting its own body needs replaced its passion for its mission, it intentionally dissipated out of being with the same lucidity as it did in its own analysis of the rise and decline of other organizations that preceded it. It was called Order: Ecumenical, for those of us who thought it was revolutionary to be *oikumene* when others were parochial in their religious orientations.

Of course, being ecumenical grew old and irrelevant so fast that it is just as well the group disbanded.

I've used the word "intentional" in two paragraphs now. A global network of "those who care" (nebulous but real) intentionally remained in touch while each expended one's self in one's own burst of light—into "a thousand light," in elder George Bush's imagery. The group's program arm was actually referred to by the GOP of Orange County in U.S. congressional record as "communist," so the group's dissipation into numerous lights in essentially GOP terminology is more descriptive rather than ideological.

Janice and I exchange messages in a common listserv we are a part of once in a while, on the state of our being as well as our vocation. Slightly older than I am, she has just joined a few of my colleagues in bouts with chemotherapy. As has become customary in the last three years, I light a candle on my ledge to lift up the facticity of those in my circle of acquaintances continuing to be treasured and celebrative presence on the planet even in the midst of battling the onerous challenge of cancerous cells.

I lit a candle for the late Ruth Tighe of Saipan, the honored maven of local commentators, until she gloriously downed her last swig of Scotch. She once commented that I eulogized her exit too early. She outlasted her doctor's prognosis a few years longer. She once bought me lunch at a new health food restaurant, driving to the place with her oxygen tank in tow. In her retinue, imminent death had no dominion.

Our current five now includes Janice of New York joining four others from Seattle, Maui, Sydney, and Saipan. Specific as to who the candles represent, taken as a whole, they manifest our relationship to those considered by society to be "differently-abled" (including the "handicapped"). Being father to two autistic children, the act of regularly lighting candles are personally of deep significance.

Janice's forte is music and the arts, and a colleague offered for her the lyrics to Cris Williamson's *Song of the Soul,* metaphors of the heart in a song. It turns out to be a song sung by an intentional community out of Seattle that was a result of my group's thousand light bursting. Part of the lyrics are:

Love of my life I am crying
I am not dying, I am dancing
Dancing along in the madness
There is no sadness
Only the song of the soul

Chorus:
And we'll sing this song
Why don't you sing along
Then we can sing for a long, long time
Why don't you sing this song
Then we can sing along
Then we can sing for a long, long time

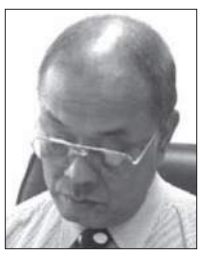
For those who follow our reflections, they would not be surprised to see us latch into Williamson's imagery (which, we gather, may have been derived from a Walt Whitman poem). *I am not dying, I am dancing* fits the sentiment of one of our candle persons who went through chemo for nine months and is prone to ask, "Why are folks afraid to talk about dying?" That, and a small dynamo we know down Sydney way two-steps us to the great dance that is life!

As a former Methodist clergy, one could say that we have had our share of sending off personages into the great unknown. While grief is a legitimate response to the reality of death, I used to conduct funeral services not for the dead but for the living. I did not hesitate to remind my audiences that the reason we grieve is not primarily for the departed as that the parting reminds us too vividly of our mortality. It is the affirmation of our finitude that is celebrated in the completion of a life!

The song for Janice is also a song for all our lives.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Areglun destrosiu gi ekonomia



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

'Nai machuchuda' koble gi uttimon ochenta siha na sakan, ni unu inalula mamo'lu para 'an ha palo'pu' hit fotte na finatton hai'las.

Finalulun este ni mahuchum fakterian magagu. Dispues nina' dimu ni areglun federat immigrasion yan sueddu. Frinichis ni man-fatsu na areglun ginen halom. Machum komplidu i sagua' moneda 'nai man-hanau i mas man-dañkulu na kompanian Japon siha guine.

Estegue' sinesedita. Estague' ta padedesi pa'gu. Finagcha'e appenas linagnos areglu para uma-adelanta i lumuñu linala' publiku gi fache' miserable.

Hu e'ekuñgog kau guaha lache ya ha chogue pot primet biahe i dinanche. Lau trabiha popotput ha' i kaddun to'lañg ni muna' fan lolosus i man-sabiun I Deni'. Manesessita limonada para u fan pinañgon ñaihon i man-gaddun siha na gugat gi ilun niha.

Magahet na para umasotta i miserable na kondision ekonomia sin prontu na pinetsige gi kritikat na rinipasan haf' mina' fan abarambau hit pot mas ke dies años na tiempu? Esta hana' fan titisu i apigasan teñguhu i mañan kinententu gi halom te'ug na tirun miserable.

Hana' hahassu-yu' este ni tres klasen tautau: Guaha no siakassu haf' masusesede, guaha ansianu kumetuñgu' haf' masusesede; mientras i man-tomtum man-mamaisen haf' taimanu na masusede i masusede. Manu gi tres 'nai siña ta pega i man-sabiun I Deni?

■■■

Dichu probleman areglu

Buente guahu lache pot sessu hu poñga i man-ma-elihe pot areglun asuntun linahyan. Lau dalai diberas ya ti marepapara na mampos man-miserable i tautau siha gi señgsoñg. Poresu na sige ha' huna' fan man-hassu i man-sabiu na debi umapega mona i primet pasun niha gi areglun asuntun lianhyan siha. Sige ha' mañogñog i galaide'ta.

Esta hu faisen mamaisa-yu' kau mampos komplikau i mas man-sustansiau na asuntun linahyan? Kau man-malefa i sabiun I Deni' siha na i primet problema pot ekonomia? Haf' i segundu mas mapot? Na ti pot ekonomia? Haf' na klasen planu ennau i kara ratu in' repite pot casino? Kau este uttimu nina' siñan miyu? Mañgge i inifresen para in' keni' i publiku guatu gi yanu na plaset prosperu na ekonomia?

Guaha 'nai in' atan haf' siha gi presente areglu inipus man-disareglau? Hafa ennau siha na asuntu? Na ti magahet na debi u guaha satton na inina yan inestudia gi ennau siha na arelgu? I estudiu siempre in' fan finanu'e humananau manu i kinalamten i tanu'. Haf' mohon? Mampos inipus mañan miyu mañgontentu lau kimasoson atuf yan pisun iya Marianas. De dios mihu!

Ayudu para i tropan 29

Bente nuebe na membro guaha gi dos guma' lehislatura. Ileghu na kumu man-adiñgan i membro gi hilu' antau na konbetsasion, dalai ya ni un' attikulu ni mauleg ti u kahulu'?

Ha chochoneg i gobietnu mapañgon tatte i Seksiona 902 gi papa' i kontratan Covenant Agreement. Guaha 'nai in' atan haf' este na probision yan otru probision siha ni maseñala para una' fitme mas asuntun para ta gobietnan maisa hit?

Kau parehu kinemprendeta pat buente guaha mas mauleg sineda' miyu?

■■■

Guaha lokue' ginen membron lehislatura mamatinas konseptu pot i mafanana'an "sovereignty". Ilelegña na gaige iya Marianas gi mediu independente na estau. Konsepton "sovereignty" ti mapatten adumididi'. Entre independente hau nasion taimanu America 'sino gaige hau gi papa' banderaña.

Lache i ha fama na asuntu. Lache lokue' i para kadu' gaige Marianas gi mediu independente. Lau faktu na mangaige hit gi papa' agaga', asut yan a'paka' na kulot banderan Amerikanu.

■■■

Lamegai man-sustansiau siha na asuntun linahyan ni kulan maleletke ni man-sabiun I Deni'. Komprendiyon ennau na maña lau ti komprendiyon i para in' batga hamyu fumat keluye gi hilu' silensiu asuntu siha ni gaige gi papa' papan miyu. Muñga mahila'gue i publiku sa' kabales ha komprende haf' na gaige este siha na finatsu. Mimilalag ginen i hegsu' I Deni'.

■■■

'Nai man-matai tres natibu, mapresente siha gi lamasan man-husga gi pettan i lañget. Man-masañgane na i sensura (test) pot madilentran (spelling) palabra. I dos soplu lau i mina' tres tinetpe lamakat mafaiseña.

Era finaisen as San Pedro para u diletra i sigiente: "Grandisimudemakatrefedegransumatlagu". Esta pa'gu ti ha dadanche pot biente años na tiempu. Gaige pot bente años na tiempu gi papa' troñkun mansanita gi menan pettan i lañget. Inipos hinihotña lau sumen chagu' i lañget. Haf' mohon?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump card

We concur with Mr. John S. DelRosario Jr.'s salute to Gov. Inos for invoking Article 9 Section 902 or 902 of our Covenant agreement with the United States government. Based on our research on case laws of the United States and the provision of our Covenant with the United States, it will be in the best interest of the people of the CNMI to revisit Section 902 of our Covenant.

After reviewing the Covenant for a week, reading and listening to the experts relating to our Covenant, we continue to find more questions than answers relating to our relationship with the U.S. government. Points in question are Section 1801 of our Covenant (The approval of the Covenant) and Article 1 Section 105 (Political Relationship). According to Section 1801, "Nature and Effect of Covenant," the entire relationship between the United States and the Commonwealth is governed by the Covenant. *Sablan v. Inos,* 3 N.M.I 418 (1993).

The Covenant is not a unilateral enactment by the U.S. Congress. It is not an organic act, which Congress may unilaterally change at its pleasure. Because the Covenant is a binding bilateral agreement between the U.S. and the people of the NMI, neither party may unilaterally amend the Covenant's fundamental provisions without the consent of the other. To do so would constitute a material breach of the Covenant. *Sablan v. Inos,* 3 N.M.I 418 (1993).

But according to Article 1 Section 105, the United States may enact legislation to make changes within the CNMI Covenant with the exception of Articles I, II, III, and Sections 501 and 805. It is very obvious that the CNMI Covenant with the United States was drafted in a way to misconstrue the truth. Based on our interviews with our surviving elders or forefathers, they were not aware of the content of our Covenant and no one did explain to them the fundamentals of the Covenant. Where are the principles of government by the consent of the governed?

To think about it, Article 1 Section 102 and Section 105 of our Covenant voided several of our CNMI laws and CNMI Constitution. Based on the paramountcy doctrine [*United States v. California*, 332 U.S. 19, supplemented by 332 U.S. 804 (1947)] our Marine Sovereignty Act, Submerged Lands Act and Nuclear Chemical Free Zone Act are unenforceable. The United States Public Law 110-229 superseded Article V of the CNMI Constitution.

In the case of the Pagan Island, the United States may at any time exercise the eminent domain concept throughout the United States and its territories for national defense purposes. We had been conditioned to go against economic progress in the past with our government, but this time around we are dealing with a heavyweight contender and we will be better off listening to our governor. Our governor wants to get the best deal for our people relating to the U.S. Department of Defense's proposal for the island of Pagan.

There are times that we need stand up for our right, but there are times when we need to know when to call it quits. It is in the best interest of our people to get as much as possible from the Pagan deal, for the United States is holding a trump card in accordance with the CNMI Covenant.

Segundo Castro
Marpo Heights, Tinian

NMDs speak out against planned use of Pagan

Editor's Note: The following is NMDC Resolution 2013 -01 that was recently adopted by the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., a non-profit chartered corporation, to oppose the U.S. military's planned use of Pagan in the Northern Islands.

Second part of a series

Whereas, Pagan Island lies about 200 miles north of Sa'ipan in the middle of the Northern Marianas chain, stretching merely 10 miles long and ranging anywhere between 1 to 4 miles wide and is considered one of the most unique, beautifully serene, environmentally rich and teeming with endemic marine and terrestrial species with Godly landscaped terrain, lakes, black sandy beaches, and coasts from its 2 volcanoes unlike no other in the Mariana Islands archipelago or even elsewhere;

Whereas, the U.S. military interests for the expansion of its defense responsibilities in the islands North of Saipan, particularly Pagan Island, if allowed, will undeniably harm than benefit the Commonwealth and her people. Historically, the U.S. military is best known for covert operations, keeping secret anything they used or plan to use that may be harmful to the area, affecting and displacing people, animals, plants, wildlife, marine life, water, air, and sea, permanently damaging and/or destroying the overall human habitat, landscape, flora, fauna, land and marine environment of the area; and

Whereas, in the Northern Mariana Islands, particularly on Saipan, around Fina' Sisu Village and the adjacent areas, and in Tanapag Village, and other areas on the island, the U.S. military left behind storage facilities that hold tons of PCB materials and oil fuel that, over the decades to date, have deteriorated and collapsed, spilling such toxic materials and fuel oil deep into the ground, polluting water supplies, soil, vegetation, and human and animal habitats. It has been found that these oil spills, PCBs, and other toxic materials left behind by the U.S. military have devastated and permanently harmed our fragile environment and attributed to the unprecedented rate of sickness and deaths of our people particularly in the contaminated areas. Furthermore, the islands were littered with U.S. military unexploded live ordnances, tons of such unexploded ordnances were buried throughout unknown areas on Saipan, and tons were stored in caches and revetments in Marpi. Such unexploded ordnances or ammunitions were discovered by the Chamorros and Carolinians while exploring and hunting in the jungles of Saipan and searching for copper to collect and sell to support their family only to be killed when such ordnances exploded on them. The U.S. military's deliberate failure to inform the civilian population of the presence and dangers of such scattered unexploded ordnances, buried and stored in private properties and public lands, resulted in countless injuries and deaths. Essentially, many areas in the islands and Saipan in particular became danger zones for civilian occupation; and

Whereas, Saipan has the most ammunition caches spread all over the island and toxic materials such as PCBs, among other toxins, that remain very dangerous and harmful to our people, health, and the environment. And, sadly, the U.S. military never in good faith returned to clean up and rid the islands of such live unexploded ordnances and toxic wastes. A mitigation or cleanup program was never performed to date. This humanitarian negligence demonstrates the U.S. military's deliberate apathy, insensitivity, and total disrespect and disregard to the safety, wellbeing, and welfare of the Commonwealth and her people; and

Whereas, often times, we read, watch and hear testimonies of U.S. military activities that result in civilian casualties and the U.S. military's casual description of such incidences is simply and commonly labeled "collateral damage." Modern examples include the destruction of Kahoolawe and the diminution of Vieques Island in the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean; and

Whereas, Puerto Rico Governor, Pedro Roselló, October 19, 1999. Statement before the U.S. Senate Armed Forces Committee, memorializing the overwhelming call of his Puerto Rican and Viequenses constituents for the U.S. Navy's immediate cessation of bombing, shelling, and all military maneuvers of and in Vieques Island, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico: *"Never again shall we tolerate abuse of a magnitude and scope the likes of which no community in any of the fifty states would ever be asked to tolerate. Never again shall we tolerate such abuse: not for sixty years, and not for sixty months, or sixty hours, or sixty minutes."*

Whereas, the U.S. military is further materially and equally responsible for decades of bombing and amphibious maneuvers of Vieques Island in the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico since the 1940s, which the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps own more than 2/3 and whose civilian population of about 9,300 lives sandwiched in between the large Navy properties on both sides of the island, which is about 7 miles off the coast of the capital of San Juan in the Caribbean;

To be continued.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

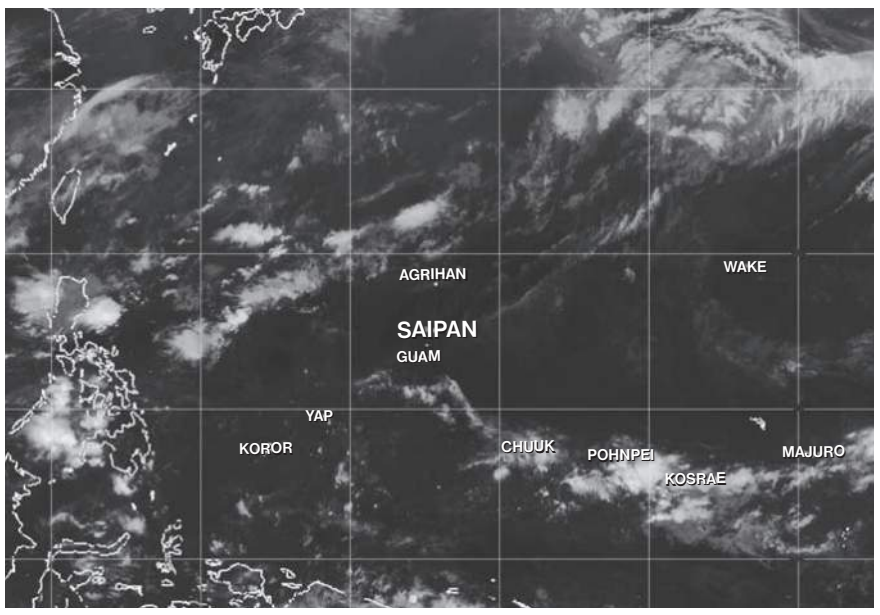
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼83
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64	▼59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼64
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲57	▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼61
Manila	Cloudy	▲91	▼83
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲60	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83	▼75
New York	Cloudy	▲77	▼63
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Paris	Showers	▲59	▼50
Pusan	Sunny	▲74	▼62
Rome	Showers	▲72	▼60
Salem	Showers	▲55	▼44
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼58
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼64
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A storm system is southeast of Japan with a frontal boundary that extends southwestward from 25N152E to end near 13N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are along and up to 200 miles northwest of the boundary. A series of surface troughs are along the inter-tropical convergence zone which stretches across eastern Micronesia. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae are within 175 miles of a line from 8N152E to 2N169E and approaching Majuro between 5N and 9N from 172E to the date line. A weak trade-wind trough north of Kwajalein is triggering widely scattered showers within 100 miles of a line from 16N163E to 12N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	0.4 Feet
5:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:47 PM	2:11 AM
Wednesday	3:43 PM	2:55 AM
Thursday	4:43 PM	3:42 AM
Friday	5:45 PM	4:34 AM
Saturday	6:49 PM	5:31 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	2:55am	6:35am	1
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:55am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:55am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

The 5 richest countries in the world

By DAN CARROLL
WWW.FOOL.COM

The recession has taken a toll on economies around the world, from driving down standards of living to sending unemployment to record levels. Through it all, however, some nations' people have emerged stronger and wealthier than ever before. Is there a trend among the richest countries on the planet, and can investors benefit from these economies' gains?

Compiled from data from the International Monetary Fund's 2013 estimates, here are the richest five nations among the world's 50 largest economies, sorted by GDP per capita and adjusted for purchasing-power parity. While at least one expected name makes the list, a few may surprise you.

AP

In this Aug. 8, 2011, file photo, a statue of former Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin stands outside the Treasury Building in Washington. For all the hits the U.S. economy has taken throughout its slow recovery from the depths of the recession, the average American still lives a remarkably wealthy lifestyle.

5 SWITZERLAND, $46,474 per person

Kicking off the list is Europe's second-wealthiest country, Switzerland. The Swiss economy has performed remarkably well despite its proximity to recession-battered European nations. Switzerland's GDP grew 3 percent in 2010 and an estimated 0.9 percent in 2012. Those aren't eye-popping numbers, but compared to Europe's far-reaching contraction, it's a relieving dose of stability. Swiss citizens have gained from the country's notoriety as a tax haven, and the country's forward-looking moves—such as its preliminary agreement to a free-trade deal with China—should only benefit its economy in coming years. The IMF expects Switzerland's GDP per capita to rise to more than $54,000 by 2018.

4 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, $49,883 per person

A few Middle Eastern nations have profited in a big way from the region's oil bounty, but few have done so as successfully—and as publicly—as the UAE. Dubai, the country's largest city, has exploded into a desert metropolis as the nation's citizens have enjoyed top-tier gains in standards of living. The nation's still in the middle of developing, with tourism playing an important role in the country's economic growth. Foreign investment has also supercharged the country's economy, with more than $10 billion in foreign investment entering the country in 2011. The IMF's estimates are optimistic: The organization expects the UAE's GDP per capita to grow to more than $57,000 by 2018.

3 UNITED STATES, $51,248 per person

For all the hits the U.S. economy has taken throughout its slow recovery from the depths of the recession, the average American still lives a remarkably wealthy lifestyle. Falling unemployment, which declined to 7.5 percent recently, and the country's housing rebound have helped America dig out of the economic doldrums. The IMF expects good things ahead for the U.S., predicting a per-capita GDP of more than $63,000 by 2018. While challenges remain for the U.S., the country's GDP continues on an upward track despite the recent tax increases and implementation of sequestration. If you're looking to take advantage of the U.S.' economic growth, look no further than the housing recovery.

2 NORWAY, $56,663 per person

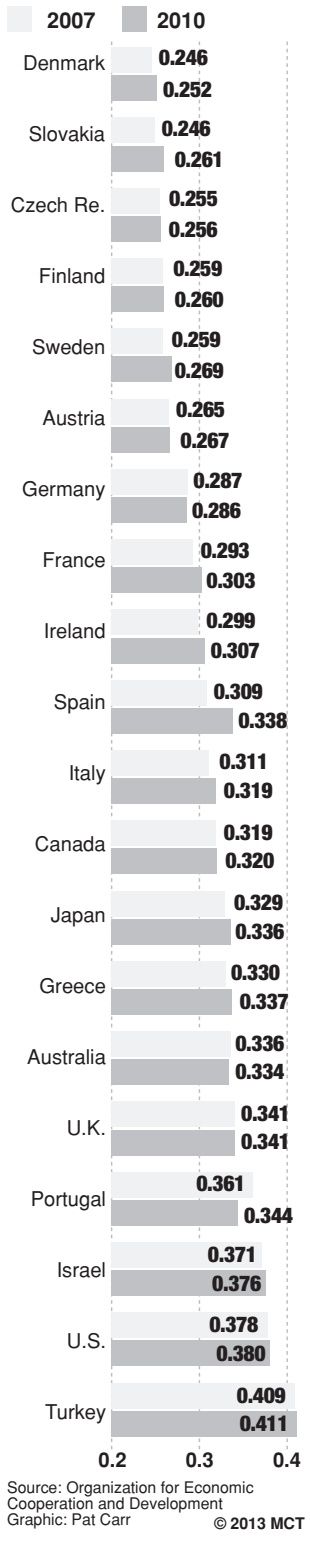
At No. 2, Norway is Europe's wealthiest nation. Like Switzerland, this economy has remained remarkably stable throughout Europe's debt crisis. Norway's GDP grew by 0.7 percent in 2013's first quarter as the nation's oil resources powered the country's wealth. While some Norwegian experts have warned that the country's dependence on oil and energy could hurt its future, Norway's doing well right now: Projections peg the country's mainland economy to grow by 2.75 percent this year. The IMF's certainly bullish, projecting Norway's GDP per capita to grow to nearly $66,000 in 2018, maintaining its lead over the U.S.

1 SINGAPORE, $61,567 per person

The wealthiest nation in the world's top 50 economies has been one of the hottest growth stories in recent years. Singapore's emergence as a business hub and tax haven—research firm WealthInsight predicts that the country will surpass Switzerland as the world's largest offshore wealth hub by 2020—has been a boon for its population's standard of living. Foreign investment has poured into the nation, turning Singapore into Southeast Asia's preeminent economy. The country is expected to gain even more in the next few years, with the IMF expecting Singapore's GDP per capita to rise to an astounding $77,000 by 2018.

Widening gap

On average, the Great Recession (2007-2010) increased the gap between the rich and the rest, but countries with strong social programs were able to ease the burden on the most vulnerable. Income inequality in selected industrial nations, based on the Gini coefficient, which is 0 when everyone has the same income and 1 when person has all the income:



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Graphic: Pat Carr
© 2013 MCT

US gas prices up 11 cents over past 2 weeks

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline has jumped 11 cents over the past two weeks.

The Lundberg Survey of fuel prices released Sunday says the price of a gallon of regular is $3.66. Midgrade costs an average of $3.84 a gallon, and premium is $3.98.

Diesel held steady at $3.93 gallon.

Of the cities surveyed in the Lower 48 states, Tucson, Ariz., has the nation's lowest average price for gas at $3.18. Minneapolis has the highest at $4.27.

In California, the lowest average price was $3.94 in Fresno. The highest was in San Francisco at $4.07. The average statewide for a gallon of regular was $4.03, up 18 cents.

Economists predict increase in consumer spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumer spending is likely to pick up this year, while government spending declines at a faster rate, according to a survey of business economists.

The economists predict that the U.S. economy will grow 2.4 percent this year and 3 percent next year. That's unchanged from their forecast in February.

But they are more bullish on consumer spending and housing than they were three months ago, in part because of a more positive view about unemployment.

The survey was released Monday by the National Association for Business Economics, which periodically surveys economists for banks, manufacturers and universities.

The 49 economists who were questioned between April 16 and April 30 predicted that consumer spending will rise 2.3 percent this year, up from a forecast of 1.9 percent in February. They were also more upbeat about auto sales, predicting 15.4 million vehicles sales, an increase of 1 million over 2012.

Nayantara Hensel, chair of the NABE survey and a business professor at National Defense University, said consumer spending will get a boost from gains in the stock market, home values and lower unemployment.

"Home prices are going up, and with also the improvement in the unemployment rate, people will be more willing to buy," Hensel said in an interview.

The economists predicted that home prices will rise 4.4 percent this year and 4 percent next year. Boosted by new construction, they predict a 15 percent jump in residential housing investment this year.

Housing starts hit a 5-year peak in March then fell in April, with most of the decline due to less apartment construction, which can swing wildly from month to month.

Applications for building permits hit a 5-year high in April, suggesting that the housing market will continue to recover from the recession. A recent survey by the National Association of Home Builders found continued optimism among builders.

The NABE economists, who were surveyed before April unemployment was reported at 7.5 percent, predicted that the rate will decline to 7.4 percent in the fourth quarter and 6.8 percent in late 2014.

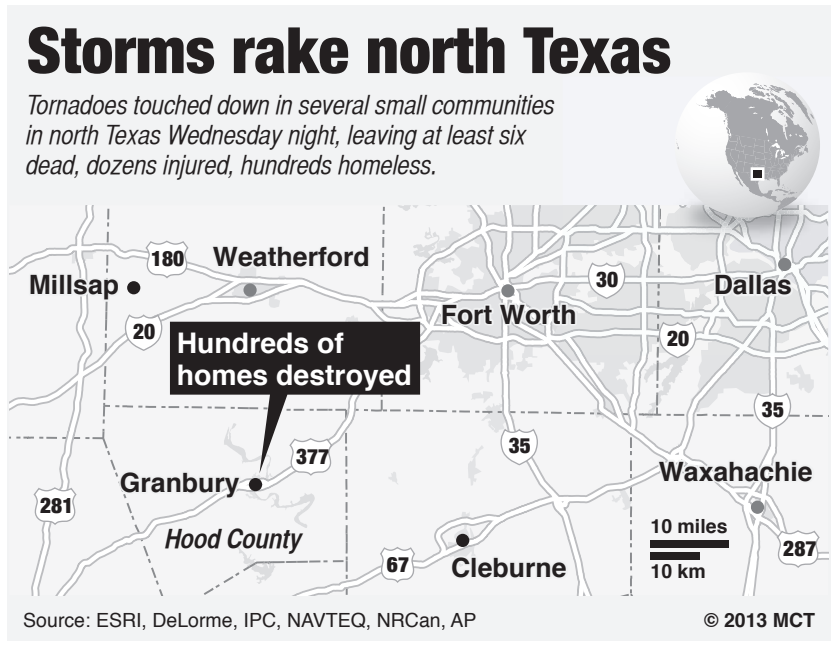
Corporate profits after taxes are expected to rise 5.3 percent in 2013 and 7.5 percent next year. Both of those are more bullish forecasts than the economists offered in February.

While consumers might spend more, the government sector is expected to shrink 2.3 percent this year—sharper than the 1 percent cut that the economists predicted in February, before a series of automatic federal spending cuts kicked in when Congress and the White House failed to reach a deal to avoid them. The economists expect government spending to decline a more modest 0.9 percent in 2014, but Hensel said the forecast could change to a bigger decline if it looks like the automatic cuts will continue into the next fiscal year.

Nation

1 dead after tornadoes level homes in Oklahoma

Heavily damaged homes are seen in Granbury, Texas, on Thursday, May 16, 2013. AP



SHAWNEE, Okla. (AP)—Tornadoes ravaged portions of central Oklahoma on Sunday, reducing portions of a mobile home park to rubble and killing a 79-year-old man whose body was found out in the open.

"You can see where there's absolutely nothing, then there are places where you have mobile home frames on top of each other, debris piled up," Pottawatomie County Sheriff Mike Booth said after surviving damage in the Steelman Estates Mobile Home Park. "It looks like there's been heavy equipment in there on a demolition tour.

"It's pretty bad. It's pretty much wiped out," he said.

The Shawnee tornado was one of several that touched down in the nation's midsection Sunday. Twisters, hail and high winds also struck Iowa and Kansas as part of a massive, northeastward-moving storm system that stretched from Texas to Minnesota.

Across the state, 21 people were injured, not including those who suffered bumps and bruises and chose not to visit a hospital, said Keli Cain, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. Booth said six at Steelman Estates were hurt.

Following the twisters, local emergency officials went from home site to home site in an effort to account for everyone. Cain said that, many times in such situations, people who are not found immediately are discovered later to have left the area ahead of the storm. Booth said everyone from the trailer park had been found.

Forecasters had been warning of a general storm outbreak since Wednesday, and for Sunday's storms some residents had more than a half-hour's notice that a twister was on the way. Tornado watches and warnings were in effect through late Sunday in much of the nation's midsection.

The trailer park west of Shawnee was among the hardest-hit areas, and among the hardest to reach, as tractor-trailers that forced the closure of a section of Interstate 40 north of the site and power lines draped across roads to the south.

James Hoke lives with his wife and two children in Steelman Estates. He said the family went into their storm cellar as the storm approached. When they came out, their mobile home had vanished.

"It took a dead hit," Hoke said.

A storm spotter told the National Weather Service that the tornado left the earth "scoured" at the mobile home park—using a term used by storm chasers to describe grass being ripped out by high winds.

"It seemed like it went on forever. It was a big rumbling for a long time," said Shawn Savory, standing outside his damaged remodeling business in Shawnee. "It was close enough that you could feel like you could reach out and touch it."

Gov. Mary Fallin declared an emergency for 16 Oklahoma counties that suffered from severe storms and flooding during the weekend. The declaration lets local governments acquire goods quickly to respond to their residents' needs and puts the state in line for federal help if it becomes necessary.

Heavy rains and straight-line winds hit much of western Oklahoma on Saturday. Tornadoes were also reported Sunday at Edmond, Arcadia and near Wellston to the north and northeast of Oklahoma City. The supercell that generated the twisters weakened as it approached Tulsa, 90 miles to the northeast.

"I knew it was coming," said Randy Grau, who huddled with his wife and two young sons in their Edmond home's safe room when the tornado hit. He said he peered out his window as the weather worsened and believed he saw a flock of birds heading down the street.

"Then I realized it was swirling debris. That's when we shut the door of the safe room," said Grau, adding that they remained in the room for 10 minutes.

In Wichita, Kan., a tornado touched down near Mid-Content Airport on the city's southwest side shortly before 4 p.m., knocking out power to thousands of homes and businesses but bypassing the most populated areas of Kansas' biggest city. The Wichita tornado was an EF1 on the enhanced Fujita scale, with winds of 110 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

Sedgwick County Emergency Management Director Randy Duncan said there were no reports of fatalities or injuries in Kansas.

There were also two reports of tornadoes touching down in Iowa on Sunday night, including one near Huxley, about 20 miles north of Des Moines, and one in Grundy County, which is northeast of Des Moines, according to the Des Moines Register. There were no immediate reports of major damage or injuries.

In Oklahoma, aerial television news footage showed homes with significant damage northeast of Oklahoma City. Some outbuildings appeared to have been leveled, and some homes' roofs or walls had been knocked down.

"When I first drove into the neighborhood, I didn't see any major damage until I pulled into the front of my house," said Csaba Mathe, of Edmond, who found a part of his neighbor's fence in his swimming pool. "My reaction was: I hope insurance pays for the cleaning."

"I typically have two trash cans, and now I have five in my driveway."

The Storm Prediction Center had been warning about severe weather in the region since Wednesday, and on Friday, it zeroed in on Sunday as the day the storm system would likely pass through.

"They've been calling for this all day," Edmond resident Anita Wright said after riding out the twister in an underground shelter. She and her husband, Ed, emerged from their hiding place to find uprooted trees, downed limbs and damaged gutters in their home.

In Katie Leathers' backyard, the family's trampoline was tossed through a section of fence and a giant tree uprooted.

"I saw all the trees waving, and that's when I grabbed everyone and got into two closets," Leathers said. "All these trees just snapped."

Navy dolphins make amazing torpedo find

The discovery itself is notable enough: Navy specialists found a rare torpedo off the San Diego coast, an 11-foot brass gem called the Howell that dates back 130 years or so and was one of the first torpedoes to propel itself.

Only 50 were made, and only one other one still exists. But what makes the story even better is that the Navy specialists who found it were trained dolphins, reports the *Los Angeles Times*.

"Dolphins naturally possess the most sophisticated sonar known to man," explains a specialist at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific. "We've never found anything like this," says the head of the Navy's marine mammal program. "Never."

Give credit to dolphins Ten and Spetz for finding the torpedo, stamped "USN No. 24," and then directing human divers to the spot.

The torpedo, rendered inoperable by its long stay in the ocean, is now being cleaned and readied for display at the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington.

"It was the first torpedo that could be released into the ocean and follow a track," says another official at the warfare systems center, and that made it a state-of-the-art weapon in its day. ***(USA Today)***

Asia

SKorea analyzing NKorea's four projectile launches

AP
South Korean students riding bicycles pass by army soldiers on Unification Bridge in Paju, South Korea, near the border village of Panmunjom, Sunday, May 19, 2013.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea is analyzing whether projectiles North Korea fired into its eastern waters over the weekend are short-range missiles or a new type of artillery the country may be developing, officials said Monday.

North Korea fired what Seoul officials called a short-range projectile Sunday, a day after conducting three similar launches. South Korean officials earlier said the weapons fired on Saturday were guided missiles but later clarified that they may not be missiles, referring to the objects as "projectiles."

"There is a possibility that they are short-range missiles or large-caliber rockets with a similar ballistic trajectory," Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told reporters.

Kim said North Korea may be developing such a large-caliber gun and South Korea is taking seriously whatever weapons the country develops because it could attack the South. He said an artillery gun with a bigger caliber will likely have more destructive power.

Officials were trying to find out what exactly the North fired Saturday and Sunday, a ministry official said on condition of anonymity citing department rules.

North Korea routinely test-launches short-range missiles. But the latest launches came amid some tentative signs of easing tension on the Korean Peninsula. Earlier this year, North Korea issued near-daily threats to attack South Korea and the U.S. to protest their annual joint military drills and U.N. sanctions imposed over its February nuclear test.

South Korea called the latest launches a provocation and urged the North to take responsible actions while the U.S. said threats or provocations would only further deepen North Korea's international isolation, while

The North has a variety of missiles but Seoul and Washington don't believe the country has mastered the technology needed to manufacture nuclear warheads that are small and light enough to be placed on a missile capable of reaching the U.S.

The Korean Peninsula officially remains in a state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Death sentence in Chinese underground bank case

BEIJING (AP)—A businesswoman in southern China has been sentenced to death on charges of defrauding investors as the government tightens controls on informal financing that is widely used by entrepreneurs. Lin Haiyan was convicted of "illegal fundraising" for collecting 640 million yuan ($100 million) from investors by promising high returns and low risk, according to a statement by the Intermediate People's Court in Wenzhou, a center for private sector business. It said the scheme collapsed in October 2011 and 428 million yuan could not be recovered. The case highlighted potential abuses in largely unregulated informal lending that supports entrepreneurs who generate China's new jobs and wealth but often cannot get loans from the state-owned banking industry. The government is tightening controls after the global financial crisis sparked a wave of defaults and protests by lenders. Another businesswoman from Wenzhou also was sentenced to death last year on illegal fundraising charges.

More bodies recovered in collapsed Indonesia mine

TIMIKA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers recovered five more bodies from a collapsed underground room at a giant U.S.-owned gold and copper mine in Indonesia, bringing the confirmed death toll to 14, police said Monday. Fourteen other workers were still missing and feared dead. The Big Gossan underground training facility at the PT Freeport Indonesia mine collapsed last Tuesday when 38 workers were undergoing safety training. Ten injured miners were rescued. Mining operations at the Grasberg mine in the easternmost province of Papua have been suspended since the accident to pay respects to the victims and to concentrate on the rescue effort. The company said the accident was expected to have no significant impact on its operations. Papua police spokesman Lt. Col. Gede Sumerta Jaya said five more bodies were found early Monday buried under tons of rocks and dirt. Correcting his earlier statement, Sumerta said all the recovered bodies were men.

Factory owner barred from leaving Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The High Court in Bangladesh's capital asked authorities Sunday to prevent the owner of a garment factory where 112 people died in a fire last year from leaving the country, a lawyer said. The High Court made the request in response to a petition seeking the arrest of Delwar Hossain, the owner of Tazreen Fashions Ltd. It also asked authorities to bring Hossain before the court on May 30. No criminal charges have been brought against Hossain, although a government inquiry into the fire accused him of negligence. Lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said the petition was presented by three anthropologists who believe the large death toll in the Nov. 24 fire resulted from Hossain's negligence. At least 1,800 people have died in fires or building collapses in Bangladesh's garment industry since 2005. The collapse of a factory building on April 24 killed 1,227 people in the worst tragedy in the history of the global garment industry.

Tons of New Zealand meat stranded on Chinese docks

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Hundreds of tons of frozen mutton, lamb and beef from New Zealand have been stranded on Chinese docks after China halted certain imports from the country due to a certification dispute. China is New Zealand's largest export market and its largest consumer of sheep meat. China has blocked all New Zealand frozen beef and sheep meat that has arrived there in the past two or three weeks, said Dan Coup, trade and economic manager for the Meat Industry Association of New Zealand. The meat sitting in freezers at the docks is worth tens of millions of dollars. Because it is frozen, it will last months, Coup said. Exporters changed the branding on their certificates in March after New Zealand government departments merged. Because the meat is transported in ships, he said, it would have taken several weeks before products with the new branding arrived.

China asks North Korea to release fishing boat, crew

BEIJING (AP)—China is urging North Korea to release a Chinese fishing boat whose owner says it was seized by gun-toting North Koreans earlier this month and held for ransom, in the latest irritant in relations between the neighboring allies.

The seizure of the Liaoning-based boat adds to China's frustration with North Korea over its recent tests of nuclear and rocket technologies in defiance of international efforts to curb the country's nuclear ambitions.

At the same time, the Chinese government is under intense pressure domestically to ensure the safety of citizens who venture abroad or out to sea to seek their livelihoods. Another abduction by North Koreans of Chinese fishermen about a year ago—along with allegations they were beaten—sparked furious criticism among citizens in China's blogosphere.

"Whatever you call North Korea—rogue state or whatever—these kind of cases just keep happening," said a Liaoning Maritime and Fishery Administration official who identified himself only by his surname, Liu. "We had such cases last year and the year before. There's very little we can do to prevent them."

Yu Xuejun, who wasn't aboard the boat, first publicized the seizure on his microblog late Saturday saying that North Koreans seized his boat on May 5 in Chinese waters and that they demanded a 600,000 yuan ($100,000) ransom. Yu, posting on a verified Tencent Weibo account, said he was asking for help from Internet users and China's Foreign Ministry. His post was reposted and commented on more than 12,000 times.

In another plea for help on Monday, Yu wrote on his blog that he received another call from "the North Korean side" on Sunday night, still demanding money.

"My captain gave me the phone, his voice was trembling, could feel he was very afraid, told me no later than 5 p.m. today," Yu wrote. He said he suspected his crew had been mistreated.

The official Xinhua News Agency, in its first report of the incident late Sunday, said diplomats in the North Korean capital had received a request for help from Yu as early as May 10, and that they had demanded at the time that North Korea release the boat.

In May of last year, a North Korean boat hijacked three Chinese boats with 29 fishermen on board, reportedly for a ransom of $190,000. Two weeks later, they were freed—some of them stripped of everything but their long johns—and were widely quoted in Chinese media on their return as saying they had been beaten and starved.

China is North Korea's economic lifeline, providing nearly all of its fuel and most of its trade. North Korea's economic dependence on China is rising, following a standoff with South Korea that effectively shut an industrial park that was an important source of hard currency. Still, Beijing has had difficulty controlling its neighbor, and early this year began joining Western nations in moves to punish Pyongyang with economic sanctions.

Taiwanese investigators end Philippine visit

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Taiwanese investigators have left the Philippines, expressing dissatisfaction with Manila's cooperation in probing the shooting death of a Taiwanese fisherman by the Philippine coast guard.

Investigating team leader Chen Wen-chi, director of Taiwan's Department of International and Cross-Strait Legal Affairs, read a statement Saturday that said evidence showed the May 9 shooting was intentional. It also said Philippine law enforcers ignored international protocol, including warning the Taiwanese vessel.

The investigators said they decided to leave because of a lack of sincerity and cooperation by the Philippines.

The 14-man team that arrived Thursday reiterated a call for a joint investigation. Philippine Justice Secretary Leila de Lima has rejected that.

De Lima said she has urged Taiwan to wait for the Philippines to finish its "fair, thorough and expeditious probe."

World

Syrian troops push into strategic rebel-held town

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops pushed into a rebel-held town near the Lebanese border on Sunday, fighting house-to-house and bombing from the air as President Bashar Assad tried to strengthen his grip on a strategic strip of land running from the capital to the Mediterranean coast.

With the regime scoring gains on the battlefield, the U.S. and Russia could face an even tougher task persuading Assad and his opponents to attend talks on ending Syria's 26-month-old conflict. Washington and Moscow hope to start talks with an international conference as early as next month, though no date has been set.

Government forces launched the offensive on the town of Qusair just hours after Assad said in a newspaper interview that he'll stay in his job until elections—effectively rejecting an opposition demand that any talks on a political transition lead to his ouster.

Even though the regime and the main opposition group have not yet committed to attending the conference, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said Sunday that he is hopeful it can take place "very soon," possibly in early June. In addition to the U.S. and Russia, he said he has spoken with Britain, France, China and other key parties.

Previous diplomatic initiatives have failed, in part because of divisions within the international community and because the regime and the armed opposition believed they could achieve more on the battlefield than in talks. Russia and the U.S. have backed opposite sides in Syria.

Israeli seeks interim deal with Palestinians

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's senior coalition partner says that reaching a final peace agreement with the Palestinians is unrealistic at the current time and the sides should instead pursue an interim arrangement.

Finance Minister Yair Lapid's assessment, delivered in a published interview Sunday just days before the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, throws a contentious idea into the mix as the U.S. searches for ways to restart peace talks.

It remains unclear whether the idea of a temporary arrangement will be raised during Kerry's visit later this week. In March, American officials confirmed that an interim arrangement, while not their preference, was one of the ideas being explored.

With the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians on many key issues seemingly unbridgeable, pursuing a Palestinian state with temporary borders has emerged as an option in recent months, particularly among Israelis searching for a way out of the status quo. The Palestinians have repeatedly rejected this option, fearing an interim deal that falls short of their hopes will become permanent.

Netanyahu

In order to allay Palestinian concerns, Lapid told the Yediot Ahronot daily that President Barack Obama should set a three-year timeline for determining the final borders of a Palestinian state. As a gesture to the Israelis, he also called on Obama to endorse the position laid out by President George W. Bush in 2004, allowing Israel to keep some of the Jewish settlements it has built on occupied lands.

The issue of Jewish settlements has been at the heart of the current 4 1/2-year impasse in peace talks. The Palestinians have refused to negotiate, saying that continued Israeli construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem is a sign of bad faith. The Palestinians claim both areas and the Gaza Strip, all captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, for their future state.

WORLD BRIEFS

Tunisia security blocks salafi conference, 1 dead

KAIROUAN, Tunisia (AP)—Around 11,000 police officers and soldiers blocked an annual conference Sunday at Tunisia's main religious center by a radical Islamist movement that has been implicated in attacks across the country, prompting clashes with angry youths that resulted in one death. Security checkpoints were in place and patrols conducted throughout the central city of Kairouan after authorities declared the conference to be held there by the ultraconservative Muslim group Ansar al-Shariah a threat "to security and public order." Police clashed with stone-throwing young men in the center of the town and fired tear gas to disperse them. The state news agency reported that a 27-year-old was killed in the clashes and 11 policemen injured.

Nigeria military: 17 killed during offensive

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's military says its offensive against insurgents in the country's restive northeast has killed at least 14 suspected Islamic extremists and three soldiers. Brig. Gen. Chris Olukolade, a military spokesman, said in a statement that one soldier also was missing as "forces have been engaging a large number of heavily armed terrorists" for the last two days. He did not say exactly where the fighting occurred but that about 20 people were arrested. There was no independent confirmation of the military's claims. Olukolade says the extremists are in "disarray" and fleeing to Nigeria's borders with Cameroon, Chad and Niger. A decree by President Goodluck Jonathan put Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states under emergency rule, allowing the military to arrest anyone and occupy any building it suspects of housing extremists.

Russian TV: American accused of spying flies out

MOSCOW (AP)—The U.S. Embassy employee accused of spying in Moscow flew out of Russia on Sunday, five days after he was ordered to leave the country, NTV television reported. The Kremlin-loyal TV station broadcast video Sunday evening showing Ryan Fogle going through passport control and security at Sheremetyevo International Airport. He also was pictured in the company of embassy staff as he wheeled a suitcase into the Moscow airport, which is used by Delta Air Lines for its direct flights to New York. Russian security services announced Tuesday that Fogle, a 29-year-old third secretary in the U.S. Embassy, had been caught trying to recruit a Russian counterterrorism officer.

Top Libyan official: Benghazi explosion accident

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Libya's deputy prime minister says an investigation has indicated that a deadly explosion in Benghazi last week was an accident and not an attack. Awd el-Buraasi told reporters in Tripoli Sunday that military officials do not believe that the blast in a busy area of Benghazi was planned. Three people were killed in the incident. Benghazi, where Libya's 2011 revolution that ousted Moammar Gadhafi began, has suffered a series of assassinations and attacks on security and diplomatic missions over the past year, including the attack on the U.S. Consulate that killed the ambassador and three others. El-Buraasi says a special command center has been set up there to oversee security.

AP

In this Wednesday, May 15, 2013 photo, a scientist inspects bees during a scientific experiment at the Faculty of Agriculture at Zagreb University.

Honeybees trained in Croatia to find land mines

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)—Mirjana Filipovic is still haunted by the land mine blast that killed her boyfriend and blew off her left leg while on a fishing trip nearly a decade ago. It happened in a field that was supposedly de-mined.

Now, unlikely heroes may be coming to the rescue to prevent similar tragedies: sugar-craving honeybees. Croatian researchers are training them to find unexploded mines littering their country and the rest of the Balkans.

When Croatia joins the European Union on July 1, in addition to the beauty of its aquamarine Adriatic sea, deep blue mountain lakes and lush green forests, it will also bring numerous un-cleared minefields to the bloc's territory. About 750 square kilometers (466 square miles) are still suspected to be filled with mines from the Balkan wars in the 1990s.

Nikola Kezic, an expert on the behavior of honeybees, sat quietly together with a group of young researchers on a recent day in a large net tent filled with the buzzing insects on a grass field lined with acacia trees. The professor at Zagreb University outlined the idea for the experiment: Bees have a perfect sense of smell that can quickly detect the scent of the explosives. They are being trained to identify their food with the scent of TNT.

"Our basic conclusion is that the bees can clearly detect this target, and we are very satisfied," said Kezic, who leads a part of a larger multimillion-euro program, called "Tiramisu," sponsored by the EU to detect land mines on the continent.

Several feeding points were set up on the ground around the tent, but only a few have TNT particles in them. The method of training the bees by authenticating the scent of explosives with the food they eat appears to work: bees gather mainly at the pots containing a sugar solution mixed with TNT, and not the ones that have a different smell.

Kezic said the feeding points containing the TNT traces offer "a sugar solution as a reward, so they can find the food in the middle."

"It is not a problem for a bee to learn the smell of an explosive, which it can then search," Kezic said. "You can train a bee, but training their colony of thousands becomes a problem."

Croatian officials estimate that since the beginning of the Balkan wars in 1991, about 2,500 people have died from land mine explosions. During the four-year war, around 90,000 land mines were placed across the entire country, mostly at random and without any plan or existing maps.

Dijana Plestina, the head of the Croatian government's demining bureau, said the suspected devices represent a large obstacle for the country's population and industry, including agriculture and tourism. In the nearly two decades since the end of the war, land mines have taken the lives of 316 people, including 66 de-miners, she said.

"While this exists, we are living in a kind of terror, at least for the people who are living in areas suspected to have mines," she said. "And of course, that is unacceptable. We will not be a country in peace until this problem is solved."

In 2004, Filipovic and her boyfriend were on a fishing trip that took them to a river between Croatia and Bosnia.

"As we were returning hand-in-hand, my boyfriend stepped on a mine," the 41-year-old Filipovic said. "It was an awful, deafening explosion ... thousands of shrapnel parts went flying, hundreds ending up in my body. He was found dead several meters away, while I remained in a pool of blood sitting on the ground."

She sued the Croatian government, saying the area wasn't clearly marked as a former minefield. "At first I thought I was asleep," she recalled. "Then I heard the voice of my father. I opened my eyes, and saw nothing. I thought I lost my eyes."

The government admitted guilt in the case for failing to keep the minefield sign, but the court has yet to determine financial compensation.

It may be a while before the honeybees hit real minefields, Kezic said. First, they will conduct controlled tests, with real mines but which are marked.

Kezic said American researchers have in the past experimented with mine-searching bees, but TNT—the most common explosive used in the Balkan wars—wasn't part of their experiment because its smell evaporates quickly, and only small traces remain after time. Rats and dogs are also used to detect explosives worldwide, but unlike bees, they could set off blasts on the minefields because of their weight.

Even after the de-miners have done their job in an area, some land mines are missed and remain in the soil, and they are most often the cause of deadly explosions. Once the experiment with bees proves scientifically reliable, the idea is to use them in the areas that have already been de-mined, where their movement would be followed with heat-seeking cameras, Kezic said.

"We are not saying that we will discover all the mines on a minefield, but the fact is that it should be checked if a minefield is really de-mined," he said. "It has been scientifically proven that there are never zero mines on a de-mined field, and that's where bees could come in."

Focus

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this photo taken April 3, 2013, nutrition scholar Prof. Barry Popkin, who heads the University of North Carolina Food Research Program, poses for a photo in his Chapel Hill, N.C., office. Popkin and researchers he leads are creating a gargantuan map of what foods Americans are purchasing in stores and eating, something he calls "mapping the food genome." "The country needs something like this, given all of the questions about our food supply," he says.

What do we eat? New food map will tell us

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)— Do your kids love chocolate milk? It may have more calories on average than you thought.

Same goes for soda.

Until now, the only way to find out what people in the United States eat and how many calories they consume has been government data, which can lag behind the rapidly expanding and changing food marketplace.

Researchers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are trying to change that by creating a gargantuan map of what foods Americans are buying and eating.

Part of the uniqueness of the database is its ability to sort one product into what it really is—thousands of brands and variations.

Take the chocolate milk.

The government long has long classified chocolate milk with 2 percent fat as one item. But the UNC researchers, using scanner data from grocery stores and other commercial data, found thousands of different brands and variations of 2 percent chocolate milk and averaged them out. The results show that chocolate milk has about 11 calories per cup more than the government thought.

The researchers led by professor Barry Popkin at the UNC School of Public Health, are figuring out that chocolate milk equation over and over, with every single item in the grocery store. It's a massive project that could be the first evidence of how rapidly the marketplace is changing, and the best data yet on what exact ingredients and nutrients people are consuming.

That kind of information could be used to better target nutritional guidelines, push companies to cut down on certain ingredients and even help with disease research.

Just call it "mapping the food genome."

"The country needs something like this, given all of the questions about our food supply," says Popkin, the head of the UNC Food Research Program. "We're interested in improving the public's health and it really takes this kind of knowledge."

The project first came together in 2010 after a group of 16 major food companies pledged, as part of first lady Michelle Obama's campaign to combat obesity, to reduce the calories they sell to the public by 1.5 trillion. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation agreed to fund a study to hold the companies accountable, eventually turning to UNC with grants totaling $6.7 million.

Aided by supercomputers on campus, Popkin and his team have taken existing commercial databases of food items in stores and people's homes, including the store-based scanner data of 600,000 different foods, and matched that information with the nutrition facts panels on the back of packages and government data on individuals' dietary intake.

The result is an enormous database that has taken almost three years so far to construct and includes more detail than researchers have ever had on grocery store items—their individual nutritional content, who is buying them and their part in consumers' diets.

The study will fill gaps in current data about the choices available to consumers and whether they are healthy, says Susan Krebs-Smith, who researches diet and other risk factors related to cancer at the National Cancer Institute.

Government data, long the only source of information about American eating habits, can have a lag of several years and neglect entire categories of new types of products—Greek yogurt or energy drinks, for example.

With those significant gaps, the government information fails to account for the rapid change now seen in the marketplace. Now more than ever, companies are reformulating products on the fly as they try to make them healthier or better tasting.

While consumers may not notice changes in the ingredient panel on the back of the package, the UNC study will pick up small variations in individual items and also begin to be able to tell how much the marketplace as a whole is evolving.

"When we are done we will probably see 20 percent change in the food supply in a year," Popkin says. "The food supply is changing and no one really knows how."

For example, the researchers have found that there has been an increase in using fruit concentrate as a sweetener in foods and beverages because of a propensity toward natural foods, even though it isn't necessarily healthier than other sugars. While the soda and chocolate milk have more calories on average than the government thought, the federal numbers were more accurate on the calories in milk and cereals.

> *The country needs something like this, given all of the questions about our food supply. We're interested in improving the public's health and it really takes this kind of knowledge.*

Popkin and his researchers are hoping their project will only be the beginning of a map that consumers, companies, researchers and even the government can use, breaking the data down to find out who is eating what and where they shop. Is there a racial divide in the brand of potato chips purchased, for example, and what could that mean for health? Does diet depend on where you buy your food—the grocery store or the convenience store? How has the recession affected dietary intake?

"It's only since I've really started digging into this that I have realized how little we know about what we are eating," says Meghan Slining, a UNC nutrition professor and researcher on the project.

Steven Gortmaker, director of the Harvard School of Public Health Prevention Research Center, says the data could help researchers figure out how people are eating in certain communities and then how to address problems in those diets that could lead to obesity or disease.

"The more information we have, the more scientists can be brainstorming about what kinds of interventions or policy changes we could engage in," Gortmaker said.

But the information doesn't include restaurant meals and some prepared foods, about one-third of what Americans eat. If the project receives continued funding, those foods eventually could be added to the study, a prospect that would be made easier by pending menu labeling regulations that will force chain restaurants to post calories for every item.

Popkin and his researchers say that packaged foods have long been the hardest to monitor because of the sheer volume and rapid change in the marketplace.

The Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation, an industry group representing the 16 companies that made the pledge to reduce 1.5 trillion calories, says it will report this summer on how successful they've been, according to Lisa Gable, the group's president. The first results from Popkin's study aren't expected until later this year.

Marion Nestle, a New York University professor of nutrition, food studies and public health, says the data could be useful in pressuring companies to make more changes for the better. Companies often use "the research isn't there" as a defense against making changes recommended by public health groups, she notes, and it can be hard to prove them wrong.

"What people eat is the great mystery of nutrition," Nestle says. "It would be wonderful to have a handle on it."

ON THE NET

UNC Food Research Program: http://uncfoodresearchprogram.web.unc.edu
Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation: http://www.healthyweightcommit.org

Overdrive

Reborn RAV4

scores well in crowded market

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Toyota sharpened its focus when it developed the all-new 2013 RAV4 crossover SUV.

Gone are the powerful optional V6, outdated four-speed transmission, snug third row of seats and tailgate-mounted spare tire that made the previous RAV an outlier.

The new five-passenger RAV4 aims for the bull's-eye in the middle of the crossover SUV market.

Prices start at $23,300 for a base front-wheel drive model. All-wheel drive models start at $24,700. All RAV4s have a 176-horsepower 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and six-speed automatic transmission. The top model stickers at $28,410 before options.

I tested a well-equipped AWD RAV4 XLE. It had a navigation system, voice recognition, Bluetooth phone and audio compatibility and cloth upholstery and cost $26,720. All prices exclude destination charges.

The RAV4 competes with five-seat crossovers such as the Chevrolet Equinox, Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Hyundai Santa Fe Sport, Kia Sportage, Nissan Rogue, Subaru Forester and Volkswagen Tiguan.

It's hard to get attention in that crowded segment. The RAV4 makes its pitch with good fuel economy, a roomy interior and excellent voice recognition for phone calls and navigation.

The passenger compartment is 100.7 cubic feet with good head, leg and shoulder room. The cargo area offers 38.4 cubic feet behind the rear seat and 73.4 with the rear seats folded flat.

The tailgate is hinged at the top, like most SUVs and station wagons. The outside-mounted spare tire that forced the old RAV to use a side-hinged door has moved inside, under the cargo floor.

The new tailgate is one of the RAV4's greatest improvements. It's much easier to use in crowded parking areas.

The interior materials and trim are peculiar. The center of the dashboard—an area you're never likely to touch—is covered by a soft, cushioned pad of pseudo-leather.

It's attractive, but why not put that comfy cover on the door armrests, which are covered with a thin layer of fabric? There's no place to rest your outboard arm and elbow comfortably on a long drive.

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Toyota RAV4

- **Vehicle type:** Front- or all-wheel drive five-passenger crossover SUV
- **Reasons to buy:** Fuel economy, passenger and cargo room, excellent voice recognition.
- **Shortcomings:** Interior materials, minor interior fit issues, operation of some controls.
- **Rating:** Three out of four stars
- **Base price, base model:** $23,300
- **Base price, test model:** $25,690
- **Price as tested:** $26,720
- All prices exclude destination charge.

TOYOTA/MCT

The 2013 Toyota RAV4 has a fuel-economy rating of 22 mpg in the city and 29 mpg on the highway for the all-wheel-drive version—better than many of its competitors.

The center armrest—which is padded—covers a roomy bin. That storage space would be very useful if it housed the USB port and a power outlet for mobile phones. Unfortunately, those utilities reside in the center stack, below the climate controls. Cords, phones and music players connected to them create clutter.

The gaps between some interior trim pieces were uneven. None is egregious, but Toyota's designers placed several in the driver's line of sight, where they drew my gaze like a chipped tooth draws your tongue.

The RAV4 I tested had a 6.1-inch touch screen to control phone, audio, navigation and online services. The screen is smaller and less sensitive than the best that competitors offer.

Toyota's Entune Internet functions—which include Bing searches for navigation, Pandora Internet radio and more—worked well. It was a marked improvement from the glitchy system in a Toyota Avalon I tested earlier this year. It uses your smartphone's Internet connection, so there's no additional cost for data, but Toyota will charge for most Entune functions after three years.

The RAV4 AWD rated 22 mpg in the city, 29 on the highway and 25 combined in EPA tests. Among AWD competitors, the combined rating trails only the new 2014 Subaru Forester 2.5i. It matches Ford Escape's 1.6-liter EcoBoost and beat the others. The front-drive RAV4 rated 24 mpg in the city, 31 on the highway and 26 combined.

The quick-shifting six-speed automatic transmission teams with the four-cylinder engine to give the RAV4 good acceleration. The steering and suspension lean more toward sporty driving than you might expect from a mainstream Toyota. The RAV4 has little squat or dive under acceleration, but the chassis communicates bumpy surfaces to the passengers.

The brakes are terrific, with communicative pedals and plenty of stopping power.

The RAV4's exterior design features a snub-nosed front, a fast windshield and tidy C-pillars. It's a pleasant shape that doesn't draw much attention to itself.

That's true of most aspects of the 2013 RAV4. It doesn't demand the spotlight, but good fuel economy and interior space plant it firmly in the mainstream of the crossover SUV market.

Horn's impromptu blaring puzzles owner; annoys neighbors

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2003 Mercury Mountaineer. After returning from vacation, I found a voicemail message from a neighbor who said that the car horn was blowing intermittently, which was especially irritating at night. I was skeptical until the horn sounded while I was out in the yard. I pushed the security button on the key fob, which shut it off at first but then was ineffective. But if I pushed the button to open the driver's door, the horn would stop. In order to ensure that the horn doesn't sound, I pulled the horn fuses for a temporary fix. I had also been getting a "door ajar" message on the dashboard message center, so I assume that it has something to do with one of the door sensors.

ANSWER: Your clues seem to point to the security system being triggered by an "intrusion" indicated by the door-ajar warning light. Start with a scan tool to identify any fault codes related to the horn, security system, door switches, steering column clock spring and, believe it or not, the tire pressure monitoring system. For example, a B1300-series DTC would indicate a problem with the vehicle's security system, module or door switches. The door switches are normally "closed" with the doors and liftgate closed. If corrosion, poor connections or a pinched wire in one of these switches intermittently "open" the circuit to the module, the horns sound.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: In reference to your column on the 2001 Cadillac DeVille transmission issue, I have a similar problem with a 1999 DeVille. Is it safe to continue to drive with the torque converter clutch solenoid off? Could I be stranded on a highway with this problem? Also, can the TCC solenoid be replaced/fixed without transmission removal?

A: Driving your car with the TCC not engaging will not harm the transmission. The vehicle will consume a bit more fuel and may generate a bit more heat in the transmission fluid due to the small percentage of slippage in the torque converter. But, of course, until the advent of the TCC in the early 1980s, all torque converters in automatic transmissions slipped a bit while driving.

If a scan tool pulls up a TCC fault code (P0471, high TCC slippage) and confirms the lack of TCC lockup, the cause may be a sticking TCC solenoid. Assuming no other factors such as low fluid level, contaminated fluid or an electrical issue with the TCC circuit, it is possible to replace the TCC solenoid. The General Motors manual calls for removal of the transmission, but I found several articles online that outline a method for accessing and removing the transmission side cover without removing the unit from the vehicle. It's still an involved repair, so eliminate all other possible causes first.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: My 2006 Mustang GT has an annoying squealing noise whenever I accelerate from cold. It starts after about 0.1 kilometer and will continue for another 0.3 km. The car will only do it on the first drive of the day or when cold. The Ford dealer has observed the noise but couldn't do a thing about it. They have inspected the belts and pulleys and sprayed either the belt or pulleys with some lubricants, to no avail. The belt and one pulley have also been replaced but it didn't stop the problem.

A: It's difficult not to focus on the serpentine belt, belt tensioner and pulleys. Make sure the pulleys are all properly aligned and don't show any "run-out" or wobble. A technician could utilize a mechanic's stethoscope on a cold start to check each belt-driven component while the noise is occurring, to pinpoint the source.

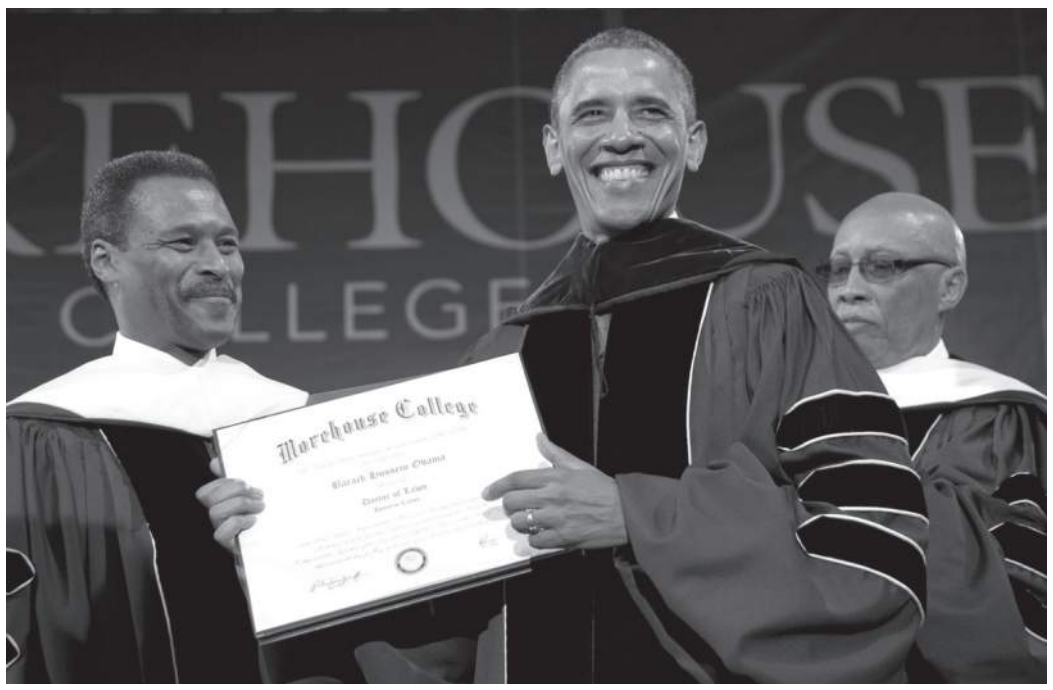
I'd also check battery condition and alternator performance. High alternator output to recharge a weak or semi-discharged battery puts a significant additional load on the belt, which could be causing the squeal.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.*

Life & Style

Obama exhorts good deeds by Morehouse graduates

ATLANTA (AP)—President Barack Obama, in a soaring commencement address on work, sacrifice and opportunity, on Sunday told graduates of historically black Morehouse College to seize the power of their example as black men graduating from college and use it to improve people's lives.



AP

Morehouse College President John Silvanus Wilson Jr. stands left and Robert Davidson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, right, as President Barack Obama holds his honorary a doctorate of laws degree during the Morehouse College 129th Commencement ceremony, Sunday, May 19, 2013, in Atlanta.

The president said his success was due to "the special obligation I felt, as a black man like you, to help those who need it most, people who didn't have the opportunities that I had—because there but for the grace of God, go I. I might have been in their shoes. I might have been in prison. I might have been unemployed. I might not have been able to support a family. And that motivates me."

Noting the Atlanta school's mission to cultivate, not just educate, good men, Obama said graduates should not be so eager to join the chase for wealth and material things, but instead should remember where they came from and not "take your degree and get a fancy job and nice house and nice car and never look back."

"So yes, go get that law degree. But if you do, ask yourself if the only option is to defend the rich and powerful, or if you can also find time to defend the powerless," Obama said. "Sure, go get your MBA, or start that business, we need black businesses out there. But ask yourself what broader purpose your business might serve, in putting people to work, or transforming a neighborhood."

"The most successful CEOs I know didn't start out intent on making money. Rather, they had a vision of how their product or service would change things, and the money followed," he said.

For those headed to medical school, Obama said, "Make sure you heal folks in underserved communities who really need it, too."

Before Obama arrived in Atlanta, thunderstorms drenched hundreds of people who gathered on the campus lawn for the outdoor ceremony, forcing many guests to wear clear plastic ponchos over what amounted to their Sunday-best clothes. Rain began falling again, accompanied by more thunder and lightning, minutes after Obama began to speak.

"I also have to say you all are going to get wet," he said. "I would be out there with you if I could. But Secret Service gets nervous, so I'm going to have to stay here, dry. But know that I'm with you in spirit."

Obama urged graduates to "inspire those who look up to you to expect more of themselves."

Obama used the speech to once again share his personal story of growing up without a father, confessing that along the way he made unspecified bad personal choices "like too many men in our community."

"Sometimes I wrote off my own failings as just another example of the world trying to keep a black man down," he said. "I had a tendency to make excuses for me not doing the right thing. But one of the things that all of you have learned over the last four years is, there's no longer any room for excuses."

Speaking in personal terms as he often does when addressing predominantly black audiences, particularly of black males, the nation's first black president also spoke intimately of his desire to be a better father to daughters Malia and Sasha than his absent father was to him, and to be a better husband to his wife, Michelle.

He told the graduates to pay attention to their families, saying success in every other aspect of life means nothing without success at home.

"I was raised by a heroic single mother and wonderful grandparents who made incredible sacrifices for me. And I know there are moms and grandparents here today who did the same thing for all of you," he said. "But I still wish I had a father who was not only present, but involved. And so my whole life, I've tried to be for Michelle and my girls what my father wasn't for my mother and me. I've tried to be a better husband, a better father, and a better man.

"It's hard work that demands your constant attention, and frequent sacrifice. And Michelle will be the first to tell you that I'm not perfect," he continued. "Even now, I'm still learning how to be the best husband and father I can be. Because success in everything else is unfulfilling if we fail at family.

"I know that when I'm on my deathbed someday, I won't be thinking about any particular legislation I passed, or policy I promoted. I won't be thinking about the speech I gave, or the Nobel Prize I received," said Obama, 51. "I'll be thinking about a walk I took with my daughters, a lazy afternoon with my wife, whether I did right by all of them."

The speech was Obama's second commencement address of the season, following remarks last Sunday at Ohio State University in Columbus. His third and final graduation address will come Friday at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

About 500 students received undergraduate degrees on Sunday and became "Morehouse Men."

After the speech, Obama joined about 100 people at a fundraiser at the office of the foundation of Arthur M. Blank, co-founder of Home Depot and owner of the Atlanta Falcons. It was the first of six money events that officials say he will headline for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, which is recruiting candidates and strategizing to keep control of the Senate in next year's midterm elections. Democrats will be defending more Senate seats than Republicans, including six held by long-serving Democratic senators who have decided not to seek re-election.

After briefly discussing the economy, early childhood education, energy independence, climate change and infrastructure, Obama said "the good news is we've got good, common-sense solutions that we can implement right now," on those issues. "The bad news is there's a shortage of common sense in Washington."

He told the donors, who paid anywhere from $10,000 per couple to $32,400 per couple to attend the fundraiser, that their support is important because it will help elect more non-ideological senators like Michael Bennet, D-Colo., "who don't come at this thinking there's just one way of doing things." Bennet chairs the campaign arm for Senate Democrats and introduced Obama at the event.

"That kind of approach, if we get a critical mass in the Senate, and we can potentially get a critical mass of folks like that in the House, means that the sky's the limit," Obama said. "Nothing can stop us."

Expectations high for next Xbox

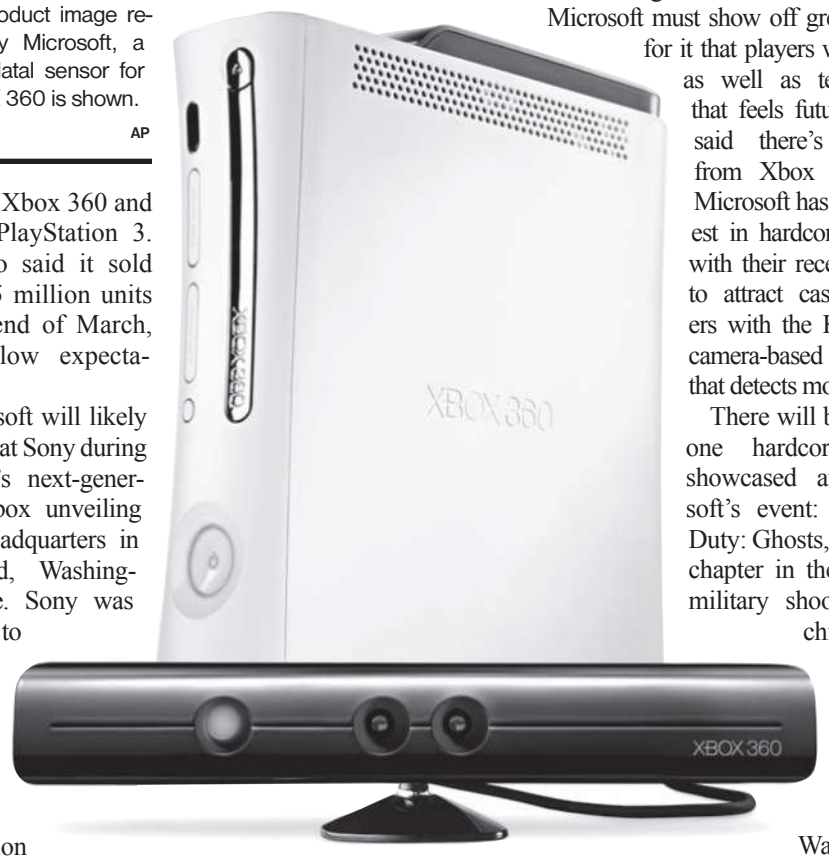
LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's almost time for a new Xbox.

Eight years have passed since Microsoft unveiled the Xbox 360, double the amount of time between the original Xbox debut in 2001 and its high-definition successor's launch in 2005. With the next-generation Xbox expected to be revealed Tuesday, anticipation for the entertainment console's latest evolution is running high.

"People get excited about new consoles because consoles represent the future," said Stephen Totilo, editor of gaming site Kotaku.com. "When you buy a new console, you're essentially investing in five years of your future in the hopes that this box won't just be cool the day you buy it, but in five years from now, it will be even cooler."

The platform has been the exclusive home to such popular gaming franchises as science-fiction shoot-'em-up "Gears of War," racing simulator "Forza" and first-person shooter "Halo," starring super-soldier Master Chief. In recent years, Microsoft expanded the console's scope beyond just games, adding streaming media apps and the family-friendly Kinect system.

The next generation of gaming already got off to a rocky start last November when Nintendo launched the Wii U, the successor to the popular Wii system featuring an innovative tablet-like controller yet graphics on par with the Xbox 360 and Sony's PlayStation 3. Nintendo said it sold just 3.45 million units by the end of March, well below expectations.



In this product image released by Microsoft, a Project Natal sensor for the XBOX 360 is shown.

AP

Microsoft will likely take aim at Sony during Tuesday's next-generation Xbox unveiling at its headquarters in Redmond, Washington state. Sony was first to showcase plans for its upcoming PlayStation 4—but not the actual box—at an event in New York last February. The reaction to that console, which featured richer graphics and more social features, was mixed.

Totilo said to wow gamers with the next Xbox, Microsoft must show off great games for it that players will crave, as well as technology that feels futuristic. He said there's concern from Xbox fans that Microsoft has lost interest in hardcore gamers with their recent efforts to attract casual gamers with the Kinect, its camera-based system that detects motion.

There will be at least one hardcore game showcased at Microsoft's event: "Call of Duty: Ghosts," the next chapter in the popular military shooter franchise from "Modern Warfare" developer Infinity Ward. Activison-Blizzard Inc. previously announced that "Ghosts" would be on display Tuesday and will be available for both current and next-generation consoles.

"They wanted 'Call of Duty' on their stage to show off what next gen is capable of," said Eric Hirshberg, CEO of Activision Publishing. "We're excited about the approach that both Microsoft and Sony are taking to the next generation. Our business, of course, depends on them launching this new hardware, so we want to do everything we can to help."

For the past five years, questions and rumors about a new Xbox have circulated more than the chainsaw on the end of a "Gears of War" rifle. What will the new Xbox be called? How much will it cost? Will it play used video games? Blu-ray discs? Will it be backwards compatible? Must the Kinect always be on? Will it require a connection to the Internet?

It's that rumor about an always-on Xbox which has ignited the most negative comments on social networks, according to research firm Fizziology. Overall, Fizziology said gamers seem to be more jazzed about a potential new Xbox, with 32 percent of the chatter positive compared to 10 percent of the sentiment negative in online conversations.

"I think because people have been waiting a long time, expectations are higher," said Laurent Detoc, North America president of Ubisoft Entertainment. "As a result, they may not be seeing what they anticipated. In the end, from the research we've done, there's a strong appetite for new machines. I have no doubt they're going to sell extremely well."

Taylor Swift wins 8 trophies at Billboard Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Another day, another domination for Taylor Swift: She was the red hot winner at the Billboard Music Awards.

Swift won eight of 11 awards, including top artist and top Billboard 200 album for "Red." She told the crowd: "You are the longest and best relationship I ever had."

She also had a colorful performance of her hit "22"—starting backstage and working her way to the main stage on the back of a bike with help from a dozen background dancers and a flurry of red balloons.

Justin Bieber also performed—twice—and was also a multiple winner with three awards, including top male artist, social artist and the fan-voted milestone award, beating out Swift and Bruno Mars. When accepting the latter—where boos were heard—he alluded to the tumultuous weeks he's had in the public eye.

"I'm 19 years old; I think I'm doing a pretty good job. And basically from my heart I really just want to say it should really be about the music, it should be about the craft that I'm making. This is not a gimmick," he said. "I'm an artist and I should be taken seriously and all this other bull should not be spoken."

Bieber performed with will.i.am and solo when he sang "Take You" in leather pants, a leather vest and a black shirt that had one sleeve, as blue laser lights beamed.

Miguel, too, had a show-stopping performance, though he seemed to kick a fan when he jumped over the crowd while singing his hit "Adorn." The R&B singer seemed to have landed part of his body on one woman, who walked away, and kicked another, who held her head low.

Maroon 5 and fun. were also nominated for 11 awards and walked away with one win each in pre-telecast announcements. Gotye and Rihanna had the second-most wins with four awards each.

But the awards show, airing live from MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on ABC, is less about the trophies—which reflect success on the Billboard charts—and more about the performances. Selena Gomez sang her seductive new hit, "Come & Get It," while Chris Brown danced around the stage to his latest single, "Fine China," though his voice began to crack during the performance. Duo Macklemore & Ryan Lewis also performed their massive hit, "Thrift Shop," which won top rap song.

"First and foremost, gotta thank Goodwill, gotta thank Value Village," Macklemore said to laughs.

Kid Rock, who presented the award, sparked controversy when he told the crowd, "Let's give it up for people lip-synching under pre-recorded music."

Mars and his band kicked off the show in silky red suits that matched their silky dance moves, with bright gold disco balls hanging above them during a performance of the upbeat and old-school flavored "Treasure."

Nicki Minaj won the first award in the live telecast for top rap artist, beating out Drake, Flo Rida, Pitbull and Psy.

"I definitely did not expect this one," she said, wearing a bright red dress.

She later performed "High School" with Lil Wayne and gave the rapper a provocative lap dance onstage.

Prince, who received the icon award, closed the awards show with a melody of his jams in a turquoise and purple ensemble. He sang, dance and rocked on the guitar.

Madonna won top touring artist, dance artist and dance album for "MDNA."

"Thank you for supporting me for three decades. Without you I truly wouldn't be here," she said.

Pitbull made two appearances, one with Jennifer Lopez and another with Christina Aguilera. His hit with Aguilera, "Feel This Moment," samples A-Ha's "Take On Me" and Morten Harket came out to sing a line from the song.

Comedian-actor Tracy Morgan was the show's host, and he dressed as Psy in a bright yellow suit when the rapper-singer was onstage to present an award. They had a dance battle to Psy's new single, "Gentleman."

AP

Taylor Swift accepts the award for top Billboard 200 album for "Red" at the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday, May 19, 2013 in Las Vegas.

'Star Trek' does $70.6M but falls short of studio hopes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Star Trek: Into Darkness" has warped its way to a $70.6 million domestic launch from Friday to Sunday, though it's not setting any light-speed records with a debut that's lower than the studio's expectations.

The latest voyage of the starship Enterprise fell short of its predecessor, 2009's "Star Trek," which opened with $75.2 million.

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STAR TREK: INTO DARKNESS [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.(420 PM) 720 PM

HANGOVER 3, THE [CC] (R)
Wed.1000 PM

STAR TREK: INTO DARKNESS 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.(410 PM) 710 PM

THE GREAT GATSBY [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.(415 PM)

THE GREAT GATSBY 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.715 PM

IRON MAN 3 [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.(425 PM) 725 PM

IRON MAN 3 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.(400 PM) 700 PM

PAIN AND GAIN (R)
Tue. - Wed.(405 PM) 705 PM

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Since premiering Wednesday in huge-screen IMAX theaters and expanding Thursday to general cinemas, "Into Darkness" has pulled in $84.1 million, well below distributor Paramount's initial forecast of $100 million. The film added $40 million overseas, pushing its total to $80.5 million since it began rolling out internationally a week earlier.

The "Star Trek" sequel bumped "Iron Man 3" down to second place after two weekends on top. Robert Downey Jr.'s superhero saga took in $35.2 million domestically to lift its receipts to $337.1 million. Overseas, "Iron Man 3" added $40.2 million, raising its international total to $736.2 million and its worldwide tally to nearly $1.1 billion.

While "Iron Man 3" and "Into Darkness" did well overseas, they were outmatched by the debut of Baz Luhrmann's "The Great Gatsby," which followed its domestic debut a week earlier with a wide rollout internationally. "Gatsby" pulled in $42.1 million overseas, coming in a bit ahead of both "Iron Man 3" and "Into Darkness."

Domestically, "Gatsby" held up well at No. 3 with $23.4 million, lifting its total to $90.2 million.

In today's Hollywood of bigger, better sequels, follow-up films often outdo the box office of their predecessors, as each "Iron Man" sequel has done. While "Into Darkness" earned good reviews and is getting strong word-of-mouth from fans, the film did not quite measure up to the opening weekend of director J.J. Abrams' "Star Trek" reboot from four years ago, at least domestically.

1. **"Star Trek: Into Darkness,"** $70.6 million ($40 million international).
2. **"Iron Man 3,"** $35.2 million ($40.2 million international).
3. **"The Great Gatsby,"** $23.4 million ($42.1 million international)
4. **"Pain & Gain,"** $3.1 million.
5. **"The Croods,"** $2.75 million.
6. **"42,"** $2.73 million.
7. **"Oblivion,"** $2.2 million.
8. **"Mud,"** $2.16 million.
9. **"Peeples,"** $2.15 million.
10. **"The Big Wedding,"** $1.1 million.

"'Star Trek' remains a fan-boy movie. It doesn't seem to have the same kind of cross-over appeal as say an `Iron Man' or some of these others," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "It's a very specific brand, but I think the general public would love this movie, because it's such an action movie. But to get a hundred-million-plus opening weekend, unless you're `Twilight,' you really have to cross over to all audiences."

Paramount points out that overseas business is up in many markets, though, so worldwide, the sequel is off to a better start.

"Because of the nature of the franchise, because of how many movies have been made and the various forms of the TV shows, I'm not sure that `Star Trek' goes by the rules of normal sequels. I think each movie stands on its own, because it's a unique franchise," said Don Harris, Paramount's head of distribution. "My goal was always that we grow the franchise. We're clearly seeing by today's numbers that the movie is being embraced on a worldwide basis in a way we've never seen before."

Harris said that domestically, "Into Darkness" finished its first weekend 6 percent ahead of revenues for 2009's "Star Trek," which got a head-start with $4 million in Thursday night previews to give it a $79.2 million haul through the first Sunday.

But "Into Darkness" had a full day of screenings Thursday plus its Wednesday IMAX business. Unlike the first movie, which played only in 2-D, the sequel also had the benefit of 3-D screenings that cost a few dollars more. Yet even with the 3-D upcharge and the earlier debut, it came away with just $4.9 million more than its predecessor through Sunday.

Still, it's a solid starting place for the movie to live long and prosper at theaters, with Paramount hoping "Into Darkness" can surpass the $385 million worldwide total of "Star Trek."

"I think we're well along on that road," Harris said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Chernow receives biography award

NEW YORK (AP)—Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Ron Chernow was honored by his peers this weekend and in turn shared a few tips about his craft.

Chernow, 64, received the BIO award from the Biographers International Organization, a nonprofit established in 2010. During a lunchtime gathering Saturday at the Roosevelt Hotel in midtown Manhattan, Chernow spoke about some of his most famous subjects, from John D. Rockefeller to George Washington, and how their public reputations often concealed a far more interesting private person.

"Once upon a time, biography was a very formal, straightlaced affair," said Chernow, a Pulitzer Prize winner in 2011 for his Washington biography. "But nowadays we all expect the enterprising biographer to ferret out that hidden self."

The BIO award is given for making a "major contribution" to the field of biography. Previous winners include Robert Caro and Arnold Rampersad.

A former business journalist who has written for The Wall Street Journal and other publications, Chernow said he learned a humbling lesson while researching "Titan," his 1998 biography of Rockefeller. Going through the oil baron's papers, Chernow had expected to unearth "sordid tales of collusion with the railroads, the bribing of entire state legislatures, the coercion of small retailers." Instead, he found only thousands and thousands of "cryptic little business letters" that avoided proper names and specifics of any kind, as if Rockefeller feared what he wrote would end up in the hands of "a prosecuting attorney or a Senate investigative committee."

Back home, he expressed his dismay to his wife, Valerie, who in response was "not only smiling. She was beaming."

"I said to her indignantly, 'What are you smiling about?'" he remembered. "And she said to me ... 'You were looking for a typical business tycoon, and what you've been given instead is a true original.' The lady, as always, was absolutely right. I was frankly pursuing a cliche. I was looking for this cartoon, whereas fate had handed me something much rarer and infinitely more interesting."

Chernow's advice: Prepare to change your mind. He confided that while working on "The House of Morgan: An American Banking Dynasty and the Rise of Modern Finance," he had been charmed by Thomas W. Lamont, the suave counterpart to the volatile J.P. Morgan. A partner at J.P. Morgan & Co., and an adviser to presidential administrations of both parties, Lamont was regarded as a Wall Street liberal and an enlightened patron of the arts. Chernow said Lamont, a master of reinvention, had another, more troubling side: friend to fascists in Italy.

"By slow and subtle steps, he was being turned into a shameless apologist for Mussolini," said Chernow, who won the National Book Award in 1990 for "The House of Morgan."

Chernow, currently working on a book about Ulysses Grant, the Civil War general and U.S. president, said the biographer was ideally a match for even the most evasive subject. Washington's austere facade, a facade that Washington himself had ably constructed, was upended by the letters and journals of close aides that documented their leader's seething temper.

O.J. Simpson shakes hands with defense team member Josh Barry at the end of an evidentiary hearing in Clark County District Court on Friday, May 17, 2013 in Las Vegas. AP

OJ Simpson lawyers say he is closer to freedom

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The latest high-stakes court hearing for O.J. Simpson in the glitzy capital of big gambles has come to a close with the former football star's defense team feeling confident that their client is closer to getting out of prison.

The last time Simpson was in a Las Vegas courtroom, he was convicted of kidnapping and armed robbery. Now, with a new team of attorneys on his side, he has mounted a cool, methodical case that his former lead lawyer botched the 2008 trial so badly that a new one should be granted.

"He has a very good chance now," said Ozzie Fumo, one of the attorneys who represented Simpson. "I don't think the state was able to counter any of our issues."

Simpson's lawyers presented evidence that showed Miami-based attorney Yale Galanter shared responsibility for the ill-conceived plan for the National Football League Hall of Famer and former Hollywood star to take back personal items and mementos from two sports collectible dealers in a Vegas hotel room. They also built a case that he deliberately sabotaged Simpson's chances for acquittal and appeal to protect himself and his own self-interests.

When the weeklong hearing ended Friday there seemed to be little doubt that major mistakes were made when Simpson was sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison on 12 criminal counts. The real question is whether enough was done to meet the high standard needed for District Court Judge Linda Marie Bell to free Simpson from state prison and grant him a new trial.

The final witness she heard from was Galanter, who defended his actions in a tense courtroom standoff with Simpson and his new representatives Friday.

As Simpson's legal team worked to portray Galanter as hungry for the money and fame that could come from an O.J. trial, the lawyer said it was Simpson who agreed to spend more than a half a million dollars on his defense, turned down a plea bargain and decided not to testify.

"I felt a genuine fondness for O.J. and was devastated when he lost," Galanter said.

However, when Simpson testified Wednesday, he recounted his hotel room confrontation with memorabilia dealers, and his interactions with the lawyer he blamed for his conviction.

He said he trusted Galanter based on a long professional relationship. "He was my guy," Simpson said.

He said Galanter made no mention of a plea deal and advised him not to testify in his own defense when other lawyers said it would help.

Galanter, when he was on the stand, said Simpson brought "too much baggage" to testify given his 1995 criminal trial acquittal in the murders of his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. Following the "trial of the century" Simpson was ordered to pay $33.5 million when he was found liable for the killings in civil court.

Galanter also testified that Simpson confided to him that he had asked two men to bring guns to the hotel room in September 2007, and Simpson "knew he screwed up."

Simpson lawyer Fumo, however, said that claim wasn't credible.

"Galanter tried to throw O.J. under the bus, but it was inconsistent with the entire defense he presented," Fumo said. At trial Galanter had said Simpson never ordered guns to be carried and didn't see firearms in the room.

Simpson's lawyers have a high legal burden to prove their case under a writ of habeas corpus, which relies on showing not only that his lawyer's work was ineffective but that if he had acted differently it would have changed the outcome.

But there is another key issue—conflict of interest.

"An actual conflict is a violation of the right to counsel," said Jennifer Carr, a criminal law professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas."

If Simpson "can succeed in showing that there has been an actual conflict, he need not show that that conflict caused the verdict. Merely showing the conflict is sufficient to show his right to counsel was violated," Carr said.

Simpson's testimony was pivotal on this point. Even with his hair gray and thinning, and his finely chiseled features lost under the burden of years and weight, the 65-year-old Simpson was an impressive witness.

He was still O.J. Simpson, a man used to the spotlight. He shuffled to the witness stand in shackles but spoke with confidence. He told of dining with Galanter the night before the hotel caper and telling him the plan.

"I talked to Yale about it two or three times," Simpson said. "The overall advice he was giving was, 'You have a right to get your stuff.'"

Galanter told a different story.

"He said he and some of his boys might be doing a sting in the morning," said Galanter.

He added that Simpson said, "he finally had a lead on some personal pictures and memorabilia that was stolen from him years earlier. I said, 'O.J., you've got to call the police.'"

As it turned out, someone called the police but it wasn't Simpson. The memorabilia dealers claimed they were robbed at gunpoint. Simpson was arrested.

"It obviously didn't go the way I hoped it would," Simpson said with a touch of irony.

Las Vegas lawyers Gabriel Grasso and Malcolm LaVergne, who also participated in the case, testified that Galanter had a conflict because he could have been called as a witness. There was a trail of phone calls between Simpson and Galanter before and after the Sept. 13, 2007, confrontation.

Other points raised by Simpson's team included Galanter's failure to hire investigators or experts and never interviewing witnesses against Simpson because, "We already knew a lot about them."

A key criticism was Galanter's refusal to hire experts to analyze audio recordings from the hotel incident, telling a colleague they were "operating on a shoestring" while demanding more money from Simpson's business manager. He also refused to challenge admissibility of the tapes, insisting they would help Simpson.

Jurors said they convicted Simpson solely on the basis of the tapes because they found the witnesses not credible.

When the hearing ended, the judge said would issue a written ruling but did not set a date.

If Simpson succeeds in getting his conviction thrown out, prosecutors will have to either retry him or offer a plea bargain. It is also possible Simpson could be freed with credit for time served. If he loses, he will be sent back to prison and will probably appeal to a higher court.

He will be 70 before he is eligible for parole.

Romance that lost its spark is unlikely to catch fire again

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together a year and a half. I regret moving in with him when I did, which was after only three months of dating.

We have been through a lot, including my struggle with various health issues. Throughout this he has become an insensitive person who treats me like garbage. There has been a lot of emotional abuse happening, and it has taken me quite a while to be able to see it.

The other night I was about to break up with him. Then he suddenly changed his tune. He said: "I'm listening. You're right. I need to change. I love you."

Abby, at this point I really don't care, but I gave him another chance. Was I wrong to do that? He has changed for now—quite drastically—but I know he could easily go back.

I no longer love him. I also no longer find him attractive, and I actually think he's immensely annoying. He's trying to get me to fall back in love with him, but I really don't want to. So do I stay or do I go?

WAVERING IN CANADA

DEAR WAVERING: Re-read the last paragraph of your letter, and you will see in your own words why it's time for you to go. He may be trying, but frankly, it is too late. Pack your bags. There's nothing deader than a dead romance.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A friend recently shared some great advice. Her mom is 86 and in poor health, so my friend put together an emergency information briefcase for the trunk of her car and another one by the front door.

If anyone needs to take her mother to the ER, all her important information is in two places. This includes medications, doctors, insurance cards, Living Will, power of attorney and family emergency numbers.

I took my friend's advice, and it turned out to be a godsend when I had to take my 79-year-old mother to the ER after a serious fall. The admitting clerks said they wished everyone would do this. (I also included $100 in cash in a small envelope.) I hope you think her idea is worth sharing.

GLAD I DID IN ALABAMA

DEAR GLAD: If the admitting clerks said they wished everyone would do this, then it's worth a mention in my column. Readers, advance planning such as this could save precious minutes in an emergency.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Due to an accident I had as a teenager, I can't father a child. How far into a relationship should I wait to tell a woman this? While I wouldn't mention it on the first date, I don't want someone to feel betrayed if she wasn't informed.

There's also the issue of finding a woman who's OK with it. So far, the ones I have dated ended the relationship because they couldn't accept being childless or adopting.

GUY WHO NEEDS AN ANSWER

DEAR GUY: Mention it when the subject of children comes up. Not every woman wants children. It's nothing to be ashamed of.

P.S. If you include the fact that you can't father a child on your dating profile, it will filter out those women who do. I'm advising you to prepare for an avalanche.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

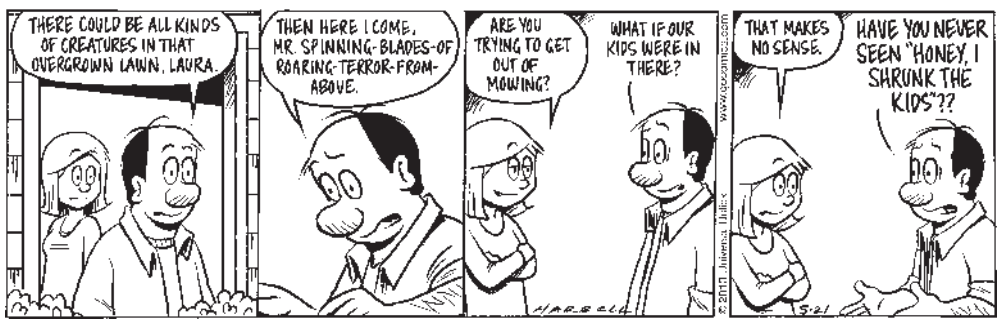
HEY SUSIE! DO YOU DARE ME TO EAT THIS WORM??
JUST ONE?
UM... WELL, YEAH. DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S DISGUSTING? SEE HIM WRIGGLE?
EATING FIVE AT ONCE WOULD BE DISGUSTING. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT JUST ONE
YOU WANT ME TO EAT FIVE?! GEEEEZ!
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT DISGUST WOULD BE SO INFLATIONARY?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THERE COULD BE ALL KINDS OF CREATURES IN THAT OVERGROWN LAWN, LAURA.
THEN HERE I COME, MR. SPINNING-BLADES-OF ROARING-TERROR-FROM-ABOVE.
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET OUT OF MOWING?
WHAT IF OUR KIDS WERE IN THERE?
THAT MAKES NO SENSE.
HAVE YOU NEVER SEEN "HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS"??

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

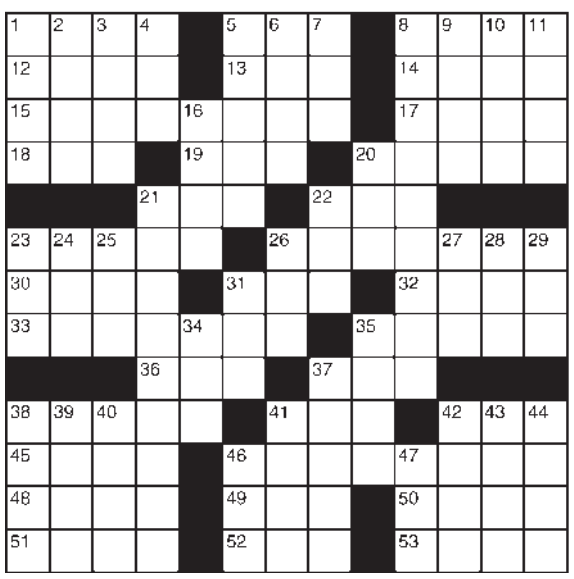
ACROSS
1 Kills, slangily
5 Make up your mind
8 Padlock fastener
12 Polio vaccine pioneer
13 Born
14 Sheltered, at sea
15 Reacted to sun glare
17 Hot dog holder
18 Sugar suffix
19 Charged bit
20 Chin indentation
21 Kreskin's claim
22 Montana or Namath
23 Baghdad resident
26 Feast
30 Frill for Fonteyn
31 Bear hair
32 Radius neighbor
33 In need of laundering
35 Bishop's headdress
36 Present
37 Corral
38 Engine
41 Fish's flipper
42 Fire residue
45 Pinnacle
46 Hotel chain
48 Entice-ment
49 Ostrich's kin
50 A bit too tight
51 Doctrines
52 "Gosh!"
53 Skillets

DOWN
1 — buco
2 Webpage list, often
3 Chimney channel
4 Tackle the slopes
5 Winning
6 Hammer-head part
7 Slugger Williams
8 Buffoon
9 Lotion additive
10 Ego
11 Hide
16 Unless, in law
20 Opposed
21 They occur in March and Septem-ber
22 Pickle container
23 "Monty Python" opener
24 Trench
25 — standstill
26 Unopened flower
27 Last: Abbr.
28 Away from WSW
29 Pitch
31 Only a small number
34 Neither mate
35 Carte
37 Fit of resent-ment
38 Neighbor of Niger
39 Piece of work
40 Expres-sion
41 Notoriety
42 Actress Paquin
43 Dazzle
44 Crones
46 Journey segment
47 AOL, for instance

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	G	G			B	E	T		H	O	L	D
G	R	A	M		O	A	R		A	B	E	D
O	O	Z	F		B	R	O		P	I	T	T
S	W	A	H	D		S	O	U	P			
			R	A	G		P	S	Y	C	H	O
L	A	D	Y	B	U	G		A	G	L	O	W
A	G	O	G		T	U	B		O	U	S	E
K	I	L	O	S		M	A	L	L	E	T	S
E	N	T	R	A	P		Y	O	U			
			O	T	I	C		S	C	R	U	B
T	U	T	U		P	O	T		K	O	T	O
I	R	O	N		E	M	U		Y	E	A	R
P	L	O	D		S	A	X			S	H	E

Yesterday's answer 5-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fairuza Balk, 39; Lisa Edelstein, 47; Nick Cassavetes, 54; Judge Reinhold, 56

Happy Birthday: Listen to what others have to say and you will make wiser choices that bring you greater advantages as the year progresses. Working toward personal goals will result in added confidence and help you realize what your potential is and how you can master what you have to offer and excel. Love and romance are in the stars. Your numbers are 6, 11, 22, 29, 33, 40, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Use your charm and appeal to start conversations or make cold calls that will help you advance. Short trips will spark greater enthusiasm for a project you want to be a part of. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Physical activity, travel or networking will prove helpful. A positive attitude will bring good results. Put more into getting things done instead of just talking about what you want to do. A secret must not be revealed. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Speak up, do your thing and make an impression. You'll captivate your audience with your ideas, solutions and plans for the future. Relationships will flourish, and developing work and personal connections will improve your prospects as well as your emotional outlook. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keeping a secret will be necessary if you want to avoid trouble. Emotional problems will develop if you don't take care of responsibilities or if you renege on a promise made. Keep busy, but don't make an impulsive decision. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your communication skills are highlighted and will help you get your point across, allowing you to reach your goals. Offering to help others will raise your profile and impress colleagues, but it may cause friction at home. Balance will be required. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Concentrate on perfection, detail and most of all, avoiding complaints or problems with your peers. Stay on top of any medical, financial or legal discrepancies. Do your due diligence; don't leave anything to chance. Don't let someone's jealousy stand in your way. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Share your feelings and interact with people who enjoy the same things as you. A change in your personal position or relationship will be due to the way you are treated. Size up your situation at home and at work and make a decision. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take care of finances, medical issues or any dealings you have with institutions. Go over contracts or settlements carefully. What's portrayed verbally may not be what's offered. Your future depends on how you move forward. Invest in you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Partnerships are highlighted. Both business and personal connections can be established and manufactured to fit your needs, but be sure to get any promises made in writing. Smart business decisions will lead to profits. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Control your emotions even if a difficult personal situation arises with a friend or relative. Spend more time fixing up your home or protecting what you have accumulated. Physical activity will help ease your stress. Trust your intuition when dealing with peers. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You've got swagger coupled with intelligence that can turn any small idea into something spectacular. Making changes at home or exploring new people, places and pastimes will open up all sorts of auspicious opportunities. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Check out jobs that interest you or other moneymaking opportunities, but keep your thoughts and intentions a secret until you have fully assessed the possibilities that exist. No need to upset someone who may not be thrilled with the changes you want to make. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, creative and unique. You contribute and strive for perfection. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1		5		7				2
					2	8		
	6							3
	1		9		5			
9			1	6	4			5
			7		8		2	
3							8	
		2	6					
5				8		9		1

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	1	3	5	2	7	9	8	6
5	7	8	4	6	9	3	1	2
2	9	6	8	3	1	4	5	7
9	4	1	2	7	8	5	6	3
7	3	2	9	5	6	1	4	8
6	8	5	3	1	4	7	2	9
3	2	9	6	4	5	8	7	1
8	5	7	1	9	2	6	3	4
1	6	4	7	8	3	2	9	5

Difficulty Level ★ 5/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SEPHORA Solution: 9 letters

C	R	Y	B	M	C	H	A	I	R	T	N	I	T	E
A	O	T	R	U	A	O	S	E	P	H	O	R	A	M
S	I	U	O	R	L	S	M	K	S	L	I	A	N	U
E	D	A	N	A	E	O	C	P	I	S	R	A	N	F
X	C	E	Z	D	V	M	H	A	L	N	T	D	E	R
O	O	B	E	E	A	E	A	D	R	E	Ⓒ	I	R	E
B	S	L	R	N	R	T	N	A	S	A	X	Ⓐ	L	P
H	S	U	I	P	T	A	E	D	H	T	S	I	Ⓡ	A
S	I	S	S	P	A	L	L	I	I	M	E	M	O	Ⓔ
A	L	H	S	T	L	L	O	U	N	O	L	S	L	N
M	B	S	O	A	E	I	E	O	E	X	B	A	T	H
S	R	E	L	R	U	C	N	T	T	U	S	M	B	S
T	O	R	G	T	E	T	A	E	T	B	I	P	O	U
I	W	F	C	E	S	A	B	F	R	E	S	L	D	R
K	S	C	R	U	B	K	O	R	R	E	S	E	Y	B

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Balm, Base, Bath, Beauty, Bliss, Blush, Body, Bronzer, Brows, Brush, Buxom, Care, Case, Chanel, Complexion, Curlers, Dior, Face, Fresh, Gloss, Hair, Kits, Korres, Lip Liner, Mascara, Metallic, Murad, Nails, NARS, Needs, Ouidad, Palettes, Perfume, Red, Remover, Sale, Sample, Scrub, Sephora, Sets, Shine, Skin, Smashbox, Stila, Tanner, Tarte, Tint, Tool, Travel

Yesterday's Answer: Speakers

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 can be ordered by calling toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universalclick.com. (Contains 1000 puzzles, including 20 20x20 puzzles.)

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1996 Model Honda Accord for sale at $2,000 negotiable. Please call 233-8448

FOR SALE

Well established Restaurant for Sale in Garapan $20K call for serious inquiries only. Tel: 233-8448

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FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager
Min. 5 yrs experience. Extensive knowledge in Accounting, Office Management & Insurance Industry. Ability to adjust in different working environments & deal with various clients of different ethnicity. Salary commensurate with work experience. Send police clearance together with cover letter & resume to friendshipinformation @gmail.com or Friendship Ent., Inc., P.O. Box 501193 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

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235-6397

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P.O. Box 500756, Saipan, MP 96950
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Duties include minor plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting and other related work as assigned. 5 years work experience.
PLEASE MAIL RESUME TO OUR OFFICE.

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Job Vacancy Announcement
(7) Commercial Cleaners
- must have at least 5 years working experience
Please send resume to PO Box 502670
Koblerville Saipan, MP 96950

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES, LLC.
Vacancy Announcement
1-General Manager
Salary $1800 - $2500 p/m. 2 years management experience. Professional Scuba Diving Instructor License preferred. Proficient in English & Japangese (reading, writing, speaking)
Interested U.S. applicants, may email resume to edwardcalvo@gmail.com

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROMEO G. DE JESUS, Petitioner,	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0588**
versus	**SUMMONS**
GERLIE V. BELAMIDE-DE JESUS, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOUR ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewee, House of Justice. P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 19th day of December, 2012

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Accounting Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Must have expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume to CTSI Logistics, lower base not later than May 31, 2013, Friday.

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Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
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WHATZIT Solution: Weeping willow

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
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Find today's solution in classified section

Spurs rout Grizzlies 105-83 in West finals opener

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs opened the Western Conference finals resembling the past champions who've been there so many times before.

The Memphis Grizzlies looked like the first-timers still trying to adapt to their first conference finals appearance.

Tony Parker had 20 points and nine assists, Kawhi Leonard scored 18 points and the Spurs struck first by beating Memphis 105-83 on Sunday.

San Antonio raced out to a 17-point lead in the first quarter, then came up with a response when Memphis rallied to get within six in the second half. Both teams pulled their starters with over 5 minutes left and the Spurs leading by 21.

"I can promise you this: Nobody's happy in our locker room, because we were up 2-0 (in the West finals) last year and we lost," Parker said. "It's just one game. It means nothing. We still have a long way to go."

The Spurs avoided a repeat of their Game 1 loss when the teams met two years ago in the first round. The Grizzlies went on to knock San Antonio out of the playoffs as the top seed that time.

Memphis has lost its opener in each round in this year's playoffs, recovering from an 0-2 hole in the first round against the Los Angeles Clippers and an 0-1 deficit against Oklahoma City in the West semifinals.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in San Antonio.

"We just didn't play well. It's not anything specific," coach Lionel Hollins said. "It's just that we were running too fast, we missed some layups, we were taking bad shots and our defense was really awful. And the Spurs played well."

The NBA's stingiest defense wasn't up to its usual standards, allowing the Spurs to hit 53 percent of their shots and a franchise postseason-record 14 3-pointers while All-Star power forward Zach Randolph struggled. Randolph had just two points, getting his only basket with 9:26 left in the game.

He had a playoff-best 28 points and 14 rebounds in his last game, as Memphis eliminated defending West champ Oklahoma City in Game 5 on Wednesday night.

"Obviously, he's their best scorer. He's a beast inside," Parker said. "We know he's not going to play like that every game. It's just sometimes it happens."

AP

San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili (20), of Argentina, drives to the basket as Memphis Grizzlies' Darrell Arthur, left, defends him during the second half in Game 1 of a Western Conference Finals NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, May 19, 2013, in San Antonio.

The Grizzlies started to rally as soon as Randolph came out of the game for the first time in the second half.

Quincy Pondexter made a baseline cut for a layup off Darrell Arthur's pass, then hit back-to-back 3-pointers during a 10-0 burst. Jerryd Bayless' two-handed, fast-break dunk off a steal got the Grizzlies within 62-56 with 3:43 left in the third quarter.

The comeback was short-lived, though.

Bayless missed a 3-pointer on the next trip, and Manu Ginobili was able to make one at the opposite end to spark an 11-1 response that immediately restored the Spurs' lead to 16 by end of the quarter. Leonard hit a pair of 3-pointers and Gary Neal had one as San Antonio kept pouring it on in the fourth.

The four regular-season meetings were all won by the team with more points in the paint, but perimeter shooting proved to be a bigger factor in the playoff opener. Memphis, which was second in the NBA by holding opponents to 33.8 shooting on 3-pointers, let San Antonio make 13 of its first 24 from behind the arc and finish 14 of 29.

Danny Green connected three times and scored 16, and Matt Bonner hit four of his five attempts for 12 points.

"We did a good job of moving the basketball, finding each other, trusting each other," Green said. "Luckily we made some today."

Pondexter led Memphis with 17 points, Marc Gasol scored 15 and Mike Conley had 14 points and eight assists.

"We were just so hyper, just running all over the place on defense," Hollins said. "We'd have four guys in the paint and nobody would be out on the perimeter guarding anybody. And that's not how we play defense."

The Spurs asserted themselves early, scoring on their first seven possessions and also getting a couple head-to-head defensive stops from their veterans while claiming a quick 23-8 lead. Parker swiped the ball from Conley on Memphis' second possession, running out for a layup, and Hollins burned a timeout in the first 2 minutes.

Tim Duncan snuffed out the ensuing play by blocking Randolph's shot, and the Spurs' strong start continued. Bonner hit back-to-back 3-pointers for a 17-point edge late in the first quarter, and San Antonio pushed out to a 43-23 advantage following consecutive baskets by Parker with 6:06 left before halftime.

It was the largest first-half deficit for the Grizzlies during the playoffs.

"Every time we made a mistake defensively, they made us pay every time," Gasol said, who had three baskets in a push that helped Memphis get within 51-37 at halftime. "It was over-help or no help or whatever it was, they made you pay."

Bae wins Byron Nelson for 1st PGA Tour title

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Sang-Moon Bae led by four strokes in the final round of the Byron Nelson Championship when his tee shot at the ninth hole went way left.

After getting to his ball, Bae hit a high-arcing shot over the trees in front of him, clearing the green and apparently going into the water—nobody seemed to know for sure where it went. He took a drop in deep grass after conferring with a rules official.

"I don't know, where is it?" Bae was able to joke Sunday after his first PGA Tour victory.

Bae shot a closing 1-under 69, even after that double bogey and another bogey on the next hole while squandering all of his early lead. He finished at 13-under 267, two strokes ahead of Keegan Bradley.

The 26-year-old South Korean now has a win in the United States to go with his 11 international victories on the Korea, Japan and Asian tours. After a par at the 18th hole, Bae got a congratulatory hug from the widow of the tournament's namesake.

"It's something I've always dreamed of, winning on the PGA Tour," Bae said. "It was surreal to have Mrs. (Peggy) Nelson there and with all the history. ... I was in awe, actually, so almost I didn't know how to react. ``

Bradley was trying to become the Nelson's first wire-to-wire winner since Tom Watson in 1980. Bradley set the TPC Four Seasons course record with an opening 60, a round in which he had two bogeys. He shot a 2-over 72 in Sunday's windy conditions.

"I'm pretty disappointed, but Moon played very well," Bradley said. "I just didn't play great today, but I hung in there. I chipped away. ... When I made that putt on 15, I was pretty confident that I was going to win."

Four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the front nine gave Bae a four-stroke advantage in the final group. Bradley made some nice par saves, but was hurt by a three-putt from 17 feet at the 305-yard 11th hole. He finally got even at No. 15 with his only birdie of the day. He made a 17-footer that had just enough to get into the cup, while Bae missed a par from inside 6 feet.

After Bae sank a 5-foot birdie at the par-5 16th, Bradley had a shorter putt on the same line, but it horseshoed around the hole and didn't fall. He then hit his tee shot over the green at the 171-yard 17th.

Charl Schwartzel, the 2011 Masters champ, shot a 68 to finish third at 10 under. Justin Bolli shot a bogey-free 65 for the best round of the day and matched his career-best finish of fourth. Morgan Hoffmann (66), Martin Kaymer (68) and Scott Piercy (72) were a stroke back at 272.

Players wore red ribbons during the final round in memory of Ken Venturi, the 1964 U.S. Open champion and longtime CBS golf analyst who died Friday.

With winds gusting at times to about 40 mph and dried-out greens, the scoring average was 71.8 on Sunday. That was two strokes higher than Thursday's first round, which was played after 1 1/2 inches of rain. Players were able to lift, clean and place their balls the first two days.

"Feels a little like the British Open without rain," Kaymer said of the conditions Sunday.

Bae won $1.2 million, nearly matching his PGA Tour career earnings of $1.6 million in his 42 previous starts. He tied for second last year in the Transitions Championship after getting into a four-man playoff. He is the fourth South Korean-born player to win on the PGA Tour, joining K.J. Choi, Y.E. Yang and Kevin Na.

At No. 14, Bradley drove into the left rough between some trees and missed the green before chipping to 5 feet to save par. On the par 3 just before that, his tee shot settled behind the green, but he hit from there to 8 feet and made that putt as well.

Bradley scrambled for pars on the first two holes, and gave up the lead at the 502-yard third hole when his drive went left into the water. He bogeyed and Bae rolled in a 27-foot birdie putt.

Bae was 16 under and four strokes ahead after birdies on Nos. 5-7.

After the differing results on the short putts at No. 16, Bae watched anxiously after hitting his tee shot at the par-3 17th. When the ball landed on the front edge of the green fronted by water, he bent his knees and leaned backward in obvious relief.

"When my iron play came back in the latter part of the round, I had confidence," Bae said. "On that shot on 17, I knew it was short, and the wind pushed it over to the right, and I was happy and relieved that it turned out OK."

Rangers beat Tigers 11-8 despite 3 HRs for Cabrera

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—David Murphy put Texas ahead with a three-run home run as the Rangers spoiled a three-homer game from Miguel Cabrera with an 11-8 victory against the Detroit Tigers on Sunday night.

Murphy's shot just over the fence in right field gave Texas an 8-7 lead and answered a bases-loaded double from Prince Fielder that put Detroit up by two in the sixth inning after the Rangers had walked Cabrera intentionally even though first base wasn't open.

Cabrera hit a three-run homer in the third and a solo shot in the fifth off Derek Holland, then went deep again in the eighth against Tanner Scheppers.

Cabrera, the 2012 AL Triple Crown winner and this year's leader in average and RBIs, went 4 for 4 with 5 RBIs and has 11 homers, one off the AL lead.

Robbie Ross (2-0) pitched a scoreless seventh inning for the win, and Joe Nathan worked around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his 13th save. He has saved all 36 career chances against Detroit.

The Tigers led 4-1 after Cabrera hit a three-run homer over the Texas bullpen in right-center field in the third and added a solo shot to center off Holland, who had given up just two homers in 57-plus innings this year after setting a club record by allowing 32 homers last year.

The Rangers had wiped out that lead—and another one after Fielder's double—and were ahead 11-7 when Cabrera hit another solo homer to center off Scheppers.

AP

Texas Rangers David Murphy, center, and teammates Leonys Martin, left, and Elvis Andrus, right, are all smiles after Murphy hit a three-run home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game Sunday, May 19, 2013, in Arlington.

Indians 6, Mariners 0

In Cleveland, Justin Masterson struck out a season-high 11 in seven shutout innings and Michael Brantley homered and drove in four runs off Felix Hernandez as the Cleveland Indians toppled yet another former Cy Young Award winner on Sunday with a 6-0 win over the Seattle Mariners.

Brantley hit a three-run homer in the second inning off Hernandez (5-3), who failed to go at least six innings for the first time this season.

Staked to an early lead, Masterson (7-2) was dominant for the second straight start. He allowed three singles, easily outdueled Hernandez and ran his consecutive scoreless innings streak to 19. He shut out the New York Yankees 1-0 on four hits in his previous outing.

The Indians improved to 7-1 against Cy Young recipients, knocking off Hernandez, R.A. Dickey, David Price, Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, Bartolo Colon and Justin Verlander.

Rays 3, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Matt Moore pitched seven innings of five-hit ball to stay unbeaten, while Luke Scott and Matt Joyce homered as the Rays beat the Orioles for a three-game sweep.

Moore (8-0) gave up one run, struck out three and walked one. The lefthander has won nine straight decisions, breaking the franchise record of eight set last year by David Price.

The Rays' ninth win in 11 games put them a season-high three games over .500 (23-20).

Adam Jones had two hits, stole two bases and drove in a run for the Orioles, who have dropped five straight—all at home.

Chris Tillman (3-2) allowed three runs and five hits in six innings.

Red Sox 5, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, John Lackey allowed one hit over six innings before a three-hour rain delay, and Dustin Pedroia and Will Middlebrooks homered as Boston beat Minnesota for its fifth straight win.

Fans at Target Field saw more than the Twins lose their fifth in a row.

The longest delay ever at the ballpark lasted long enough for the 1993 movie "The Sandlot" to be shown in its entirety on the videoboard. Several cast and crew members were at the stadium to celebrate the film's 20th anniversary.

The game resumed about 80 minutes after the movie ended and many fans moved into the first eight rows behind the dugouts.

Lackey (2-4) gave up one unearned run and struck out five before dark skies and heavy rain sent fans running for cover as he was warming up to start the seventh.

Lackey ended his three-game losing streak. He didn't allow a runner until Trevor Plouffe led off the fifth with a double. Plouffe later scored on shortstop Pedro Ciriaco's throwing error.

Angels 6, White Sox 2

In Anaheim, California, Jason Vargas scattered four hits through seven scoreless innings, while Erick Aybar and Howie Kendrick each hit two-run doubles as the Los Angeles Angels coaxed a pair of bases-loaded walks out of Jake Peavy in the fourth inning of a victory over the White Sox.

Vargas (3-3) struck out six and walked three while helping the Angels gain a split of the four-game series. Peavy (5-2) gave up four runs, four hits and five walks over six innings.

Alex Rios drove in Chicago's first run with an eighth-inning double against Dane De La Rosa. It extended Rios' hitting streak to 14 games, eclipsing his previous best in 2006 with Toronto.

Athletics 4, Royals 3

In Oakland, California, Yoenis Cespedes hit a leadoff home run in the eighth inning as the Athletics beat the Royals to complete a three-game sweep.

Cespedes hit his eighth homer, connecting against Kelvin Herrera (2-4).

Jerry Blevins (3-0) pitched one scoreless inning. Ryan Cook worked the ninth for his first save of the season.

Alex Gordon matched his career high of four hits for Kansas City. The Royals have lost 10 of 13 and fallen back to .500.

Phillies 3, Red 2

In Philadelphia, Freddy Galvis and Erik Kratz each homered off closer Aroldis Chapman in the bottom of the ninth innings Sunday, helping the Philadelphia Phillies secure a stunning 3-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds.

Chapman (3-2) blew his second straight save opportunity after converting his first eight chances this season.

Antonio Bastardo (2-1) pitched a scoreless ninth inning for Philadelphia.

Jay Bruce homered and Homer Bailey tossed seven scoreless innings for the Reds.

Joey Votto went 2 for 4 in extending his hitting streak to eight games. He is batting .515 (17 for 33) over the stretch.

Chase Utley's RBI single in the eighth inning snapped the Phillies' 16 scoreless innings skid.

Marlins 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Miami, Ricky Nolasco struck out 11 as the Marlins stopped a season-high seven-game losing streak by holding off Arizona.

The Diamondbacks scored once in the ninth. Mike Dunn, the Marlins' third pitcher of the inning, got pinch-hitter A.J. Pollock to ground out on a 3-2 pitch with the bases loaded to end it.

Marcell Ozuna broke a scoreless tie with a two-run double in the sixth.

Didi Gregorius had three hits for Arizona, which had won four in a row.

Nolasco (3-5) was coming off his worst start of the season, allowing six runs in five innings in a loss to Cincinnati on Tuesday.

Wade Miley (3-3) gave up two runs and five hits in six innings while striking out six.

Cardinals 4, Brewers 2

In St. Louis, David Freese had an RBI in a four-run fourth inning to go with big plays at third base, helping the Cardinals beat former teammate Kyle Lohse for the third time this season.

John Gast (2-0) won his second straight start in place of the injured Jake Westbrook and fellow rookie Seth Maness escaped a bases-loaded, none-out jam in the seventh to help the Cardinals win for the 14th time in 17 games.

Edward Mujica earned his 13th save in 13 chances after a third rookie, Trevor Rosenthal, gave up a hit in the eighth.

Lohse (1-5) has lost all three of his starts against St. Louis after going 16-3 for the Cardinals last season and then leaving in free agency when they opted to go with younger players. He gave up four runs in six innings, and is 0-4 overall in his last five starts.

Mets 4, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Daniel Murphy hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning as the Mets beat the Cubs for their first series win at Wrigley Field since 2007.

The Mets won two of three on this trip to Chicago.

Murphy hit a leadoff shot against reliever Kyuji Fukikawa (1-1). Murphy has homered twice in three games and has an eight-game hitting streak.

Mets rookie Juan Lagares hit his first major league homer, a tying, two-run drive in the seventh against Cubs starter Travis Wood.

Scott Rice (2-3) pitched two scoreless innings. Bobby Parnell earned his sixth save.

Wood hit his first homer of the season and fourth of his career.

Padres 13, Nationals 4

In San Diego, Andrew Cashner pitched 6 2-3 strong innings and Kyle Blanks and Will Venable homered off Dan Haren to lead the Padres to a victory against the Nationals and a split of their four-game series.

Cashner (3-2) allowed three runs and seven hits, struck out six and walked one. The Padres tied their season high in runs and their 15 hits off four Nationals pitchers were two short of their season best.

San Diego's Yonder Alonso homered off Drew Storen leading off the eighth to finish 3 for 4 with two RBIs and three runs scored. It was his sixth homer.

The Nationals have lost two straight and six of nine.

Rockies 5, Giants 0

In Denver, Juan Nicasio scattered three hits over six innings, Carlos Gonzalez and Troy Tulowitzki each drove in two runs as the Rockies won their first series over San Francisco in two years.

Dexter Fowler tied a career high with four hits to help the Rockies take three of four from the reigning World Series champions. Jordan Pacheco also drove in a run for Colorado.

Nicasio (4-1) shut down one of the top-hitting teams in baseball, striking out five and allowing only an intentional walk before being lifted for a pinch hitter in the sixth.

Braves 4, Dodgers 2

In Atlanta, Ramiro Pena had a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in a four-run eighth inning, Jordan Schafer drove in two runs and the Braves rallied against Los Angeles' beleaguered bullpen for a rain-soaked victory.

Kenley Jansen (1-3) was the loser for the second straight game, this time allowing one hit, two runs and a walk while getting just one out in a game twice delayed by rain for a total of 2 hours, 15 minutes.

Jansen began the eighth by allowing a single to Freddie Freeman and walking Brian McCann. Dodgers manager Don Mattingly brought in closer Brandon League for the first time in the series, but he fared no better than his teammate.

After Atlanta loaded the bases when third baseman Juan Uribe was charged with a fielding error on Andrelton Simmons' sacrifice bunt attempt, League gave up a tying RBI single to pinch-hitter Gerald Laird to make it 2-all. Pinch-runner B.J. Upton scored Pena's fly.

The Braves added two more runs off League on Chris Johnson's RBI single and a sacrifice bunt by Schafer.

Pirates 1, Astros 0

In Pittsburgh, Jeff Locke allowed three hits over seven innings and Pedro Alvarez homered as the Pirates won for the eighth time in 10 games.

Locke (4-1) won his fourth straight decisions and gave up one run or fewer for the fifth time in his past eight outings. He struck out four and walked three.

Alvarez's longball was his second of the series and third in eight games. It was the lone mistake by Astros starter Lucas Harrell (3-5), who lost his third consecutive decision despite allowing four hits and one walk in seven innings.

Off to their best 44-game start since 1991, the Pirates (26-18) have the National League's third-best record. They won despite the absence of outfielder Andrew McCutchen, who was a late scratch because of soreness in his right knee.

Docomo snaps Shirley's run; Mobil takes lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific withstood Shirley's late rally to eke out a 90-88 victory in the second game in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Docomo saw its once double-digit lead down to two, with less than a minute left, but still preserved the win as Shirley's muffed important free throws, while Rolly Paraiso escaped with a crucial basket. Docomo improved to a 4-2 record, the same mark Shirley's old, but the latter had its four-game winning streak snapped.

Shirley's fell behind by as much as 12 in the fourth quarter, 83-71, but Docomo relaxed a bit and the latter capitalized, launching a 16-4 attack to move within a basket, 85-87, with 45 seconds left on the clock.

Rommel Usi, Erick Dela Rosa, and Errol Peredo teamed up in the rally and could have tied the match if not for inconsistent free throw shooting. Shirley's faced a 4-four deficit, 83-87, when Dela Rosa and Peredo made successive trips to the stripe, but only split their charities, leaving Docomo with a 2-point cushion.

Shirley's then committed three straight fouls to stop the clock and just went it was trying to give up another one to send Docomo to the line, Marlon Sison threw a pitch to Rolly Paraiso, who was sprinting to their frontcourt and receive the perfect inbound pass and canned the layup.

Shirley's was left with 13 seconds to pull up for a shot, but missed a 3-point attempt and was forced to commit a foul anew. Marlon Sison iced it with a split, just one second remaining in the game.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Docomo Pacific's Tim Wesley goes for a jump hooked against Shirley's' Erick Dela Rosa during the fourth quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Mobil 100, Mariana Resort 88

In the first game, Mobil reached the century mark against the depleted Mariana Resort.

Mobil now has a 5-1 record to take the lead in the 10-team field, while Mariana Resort remained at the bottom half of the standings with its 1-5 slate.

Pando Muleta and Jun Estolas hit their targets to lead Mobil's easy win. Muleta had a team-high 25 points, canning three triples, while Estolas chipped in 23.

Mobil was just ahead by three after the first period, 27-24, but began controling the second in the second half with Estolas and Muleta combining for 21 of their 34 points in the second canto. By halftime, Mobil stretched the lead to double digits, 58-48, and Mariana Resort did not have enough manpower to overhaul the deficit, as it played with only five players.

First Game

Mobil 100 – Muleta 25, Estolas 23, Babauta 9, Gapor 8, Ruluked 6, Abuan 6, Galzote 5, Libayan 5. **Mariana Resort 88** – Camacho 31, Ocanada 19, Hidalgo 12, Sanchez 8, Cruz 8.

Scoring by quarters: 24-27, 58-48, 80-61, 100-88.

Second Game

Docomo 90 – Mangali 27, Wesley 17, Berline 11, Sanciangco 10, Paraiso 6, Alvarez 4, McCale 4, Sablan 2, Sison

Shirley's 88 – Dela Rosa 23, Usi 18, Metran 16, Peredo 11, Yap 6, Barrios 2, Montes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-21, 45-46, 68-62.

PADRES

From Page 28

two-run double earlier at the top of the sixth.

The Ol'Aces then tried to widen the gap, but faltered as Jonah Flores was left stranded at first at the top of the last inning after relief pitcher Brian Camacho struck out Jake Santos for the third out. Brian Camacho, who came in for Carl Camacho in the sixth inning after Sablan's go-ahead double and got his first strikeout to end the inning, and his second off leadoff batter Frankie Camacho and the Ol'Aces was called for the second out with T.J. Sablan was beaten at first base. Flores was next at bat and singled, but remained there after Brian Camacho downed Santos.

Now behind by only one, the Padres started the last inning with a single from Brian Camacho, who later stole second base, while Jordan Pangelinan also singled and then made it home off a fielder's choice to tie the match, 8-all. Carl Camacho batted next was struck out and the Ol'Aces moved one out away from forcing an extra inning after catching Brian Camacho stealing third.

However, the Padres were not keen on extending the game and after Aldan was hit by a pitch and moved to second and Anthony David walked to first, Castro blasted an RBI single to win the match in regulation.

Meanwhile, the Padres-Braves title showdown in the Big League division will be played today, starting at 6:30pm or after the Senior League final pairing between the Fielders and the Braves. The Senior League championship game is set to start at 5pm.

PLAYERS

From Page 28

competitions for five days," NMITA president Jeff Race said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Over 30 off-island players will compete in the Grade 5 event that will run until May 26 and most of them have started practicing at PIC and at the Kanoa Resort. South Africa's Warona Mdlulwa traded shots against the CNMI's No. 1 U18 player Thea Minor, while South Korea's Seng Hui Lee and Jae Hee Cho also practiced at the PIC hard court in preparation for the ranking tournament.

Mdlulwa was among the 22 players who are listed in the main draw in the girls U18 division, which has the Philippines' Katrina Orteza as the highest-ranked player in the group. Orteza is ranked at No. 1,020 in the world (Junior ITF) and No. 4 in her country. She will be joined by sister Isabella, who is ranked No. 8 in the Philippines and No. 1,636 in the world and Maria Dominuque Ong (No. 17 in PH/1,949 in the world).

Thailand's Emiri Vithoontien is the second highest ranked in the girls main draw at No. 1, 160 (No. 75 in her country), while compatriot Gorbua Srisirisupayok also made the list.

Japan also has entries in the competition that will award 30 ranking points to the champion, 20 to runner-up, 15 to the semifinalists, 10 to the quarterfinalists, and 5 to the losers in the Round of 16. The Japanese are represented by Mei Otsuka (No. 1,199), Yuri Katano (No. 1,662) and Miyu Hashimoto (1,949) and the unranked Ozumi Asano.

Minor leads five other CNMI bets in the main draw. Joining her are Mikayla Lopez, Negahr Rastguiy, Tammy Ackerman, Emily Jones, and Alina Ishikawa.

Completing the main draw are Hong Kong's Yuen Tung Liu (No. 1,712) and Wai Iam Ip, Germany's Vivien Klein (No. 1,712), and the U.S.'s Sachi Belwal (No. 1,775).

Meanwhile, 26 players are listed in the boys main draw led by the No. 447-ranked Kennosuke Nouchi of Japan.

Five other world-ranked players are in the main draw. The list includes Hong Kong's Chak Yin Chan (No. 927), the U.S' James Hahn (No.1,572), Korea's Yong Seak Jang (No. 1,071), Cho (1,712), and Lee (No. 1, 712), and China's Yu Hao Lu (No. 1,712).

Also gaining tickets to the main draw are the CNMI's Rafael Jones, Tommy Choi, Seiya Eda, Moris Villanueva, Chris Cajigan, Dylan Ackerman, Colin Ramsey, Amami Sakano, and Daniel Park.

Rounding out the boys main draw are two players from the Philippines and Australia, three from Singapore, three more from Korea, and one from Thailand.

"We are inviting the public to come to the court and support our players," said Race.

The Junior ITF event is supported by IT&E, August Health Care, All-Star Sport, Hertz Rent A Car, PIC, Kanoa Resort, TSL Foundation, Subway, and Powerade/Coca-Cola.

MAPLAS

From Page 28

second canto and went on to finish with 10 in that period alone to turn a first-quarter standoff, 17-all, to a 40-36 halftime edge. Usi also scored in streaks in the second canto, making 6 straight markers.

Maplas retained the driver's seat in the second half, as its guard combo continued to provide the needed baskets, while Edmark Mendoza also contributed to the cause, notching 15, notching 10 of them in the final half.

Usi saved his best for last, firing 10 points in the fourth period to thwart Wanted Sponsor's repeated comeback bids.

King's 71, Camor 65

In the first game, King's also posted its second win in four games after downing Camor (2-2).

King's gained cushion in the second quarter and hung in there behind the consistent scoring of Bryle Alegre and support of Jaymark De Guzman.

Ahead by only 3 at the end of the first period, 16-13, King's outgunned Camor in the third period, 24-14, to open a 40-36 gap at halftime. Alegre drilled 9 points in the second canto, while De Guzman contributed 7 to give King's a double-digit advantage at the break.

De Guzman then went on a streak at the start of the third, hitting back-to-back triples and scoring 7 points to keep King's distance, 53-44, with only one quarter to go. Then in the fourth, it was Alegre's turn to make baskets in succession, as he knocked in King's first 6 points to maintain their lead and he and De Guzman nailed the team's last 5 points to seal the victory.

First Game

King's 71 – Alegre 27, De Guzman 17, Villanueva 10, Mariano 6, Barrios 4.

Camor 65 – Aranda 24, Ibanez 10, Yap 7, Kwon 6, Factor 4, Galulu 3, Cayading 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-13, 40-27, 53-44, 71-65.

Second Game

Maplas 76 –Usi 24, David 21, Mendoza 15, Odicta 5, Aniciete 5, Rivera 2.

Wanted Sponsor 68 – Lerio 24, Diyco 16, Musni 12, Danipog 11, Cadag 6.

Scoring by quarters: 17-17, 40-36, 57-47, 76-68.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	27	16	.628	_
Boston	27	17	.614	1/2
Baltimore	23	20	.535	4
Tampa Bay	23	20	.535	4
Toronto	17	26	.395	10

Central Division

Cleveland	25	17	.595	_
Detroit	23	19	.548	2
Kansas City	20	20	.500	4
Chicago	19	23	.452	6
Minnesota	18	22	.450	6

West Division

Texas	29	15	.659	_
Oakland	23	22	.511	6 1/2
Seattle	20	24	.455	9
Los Angeles	17	27	.386	12
Houston	12	32	.273	17

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	25	18	.581	_
Washington	23	21	.523	2 1/2
Philadelphia	21	23	.477	4 1/2
New York	17	24	.415	7
Miami	12	32	.273	13 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	28	15	.651	_
Cincinnati	26	18	.591	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	26	18	.591	2 1/2
Chicago	18	25	.419	10
Milwaukee	17	25	.405	10 1/2

West Division

Arizona	25	19	.568	_
Colorado	24	20	.545	1
San Francisco	24	20	.545	1
San Diego	20	23	.465	4 1/2
Los Angeles	17	25	.405	7

BYRON NELSON SCORES

IRVING, Texas (AP)–Scores Saturday in the Byron Nelson Championship, played at the 7,166-yard, par-70 course at TPC Four Seasons Resort.

FINAL

Sang-Moon Bae (500), $1,206,000	66-66-66-69–267
Keegan Bradley (300), $723,600	60-69-68-72–269
Charl Schwartzel (190), $455,600	63-70-69-68–270
Justin Bolli (135), $321,600	69-69-68-65–271
Morgan Hoffmann (100), $244,550	69-71-66-66–272
Martin Kaymer (100), $244,550	68-67-69-68–272
Scott Piercy (100), $244,550	66-68-66-72–272
Charley Hoffman (83), $201,000	68-68-70-67–273
John Huh (83), $201,000	69-64-69-71–273
Graham DeLaet (73), $174,200	67-67-70-70–274
Ryo Ishikawa (73), $174,200	71-68-68-67–274
Ricky Barnes (59), $131,320	68-71-70-66–275
Angel Cabrera (59), $131,320	65-69-70-71–275
Tom Gillis (59), $131,320	69-63-67-76–275
Marc Leishman (59), $131,320	66-70-69-70–275
D.A. Points (59), $131,320	69-68-67-71–275
Harris English (53), $97,150	64-70-68-74–276
Charles Howell III (53), $97,150	67-69-70-70–276
Freddie Jacobson (53), $97,150	68-69-70-69–276
Brendon Todd (53), $97,150	69-68-72-67–276
Jason Bohn (48), $67,000	71-68-69-69–277
Justin Hicks (48), $67,000	69-70-68-70–277
Jerry Kelly (48), $67,000	69-70-66-72–277
Colt Knost (48), $67,000	68-70-71-68–277
Chez Reavie (48), $67,000	69-67-71-70–277
John Rollins (48), $67,000	74-64-70-69–277
Will Claxton (42), $46,565	66-73-69-70–278
Jason Day (42), $46,565	72-68-66-72–278
Brian Harman (42), $46,565	68-69-70-71–278
Ted Potter, Jr. (42), $46,565	64-70-70-74–278
Wes Short, Jr. (42), $46,565	68-71-71-68–278
Jimmy Walker (42), $46,565	68-68-70-72–278
Erik Compton (34), $32,495	72-63-72-72–279
James Driscoll (34), $32,495	67-72-67-73–279
Jason Dufner (34), $32,495	70-70-67-72–279
Nathan Green (34), $32,495	67-68-68-76–279
Matt Kuchar (34), $32,495	69-70-71-69–279
Jeff Overton (34), $32,495	68-70-70-71–279
Ryan Palmer (34), $32,495	65-68-73-73–279
Kenny Perry (34), $32,495	71-69-69-70–279
Marcel Siem, $32,495	68-68-68-75–279
Mike Weir (34), $32,495	68-68-73-70–279
Charlie Beljan (26), $22,110	70-69-72-69–280
Martin Flores (26), $22,110	67-68-71-74–280
D.H. Lee (26), $22,110	68-69-69-74–280
Justin Leonard (26), $22,110	70-70-70-70–280
Rory Sabbatini (26), $22,110	69-71-68-72–280
Stephen Ames (19), $16,363	67-68-71-75–281
Matt Bettencourt (19), $16,363	73-64-72-72–281
Padraig Harrington (19), $16,363	70-70-71-70–281
Steve Marino (19), $16,363	68-69-70-74–281
William McGirt (19), $16,363	68-69-69-75–281
Joe Ogilvie (19), $16,363	68-69-70-74–281
Camilo Villegas (19), $16,363	65-70-71-75–281
Duffy Waldorf (19), $16,363	68-67-73-73–281
Gary Woodland (19), $16,363	69-65-68-79–281
Stuart Appleby (12), $14,807	69-70-68-75–282
Ben Crane (12), $14,807	67-69-73-73–282
Henrik Norlander (12), $14,807	71-67-70-74–282
Cameron Percy (12), $14,807	68-68-69-77–282
Tag Ridings (12), $14,807	68-70-71-73–282
Andrew Svoboda (12), $14,807	69-70-70-73–282
Gary Christian (7), $14,204	69-69-70-75–283
Scott Langley (7), $14,204	71-69-70-73–283
David Mathis (7), $14,204	70-67-73-73–283
John Daly (5), $13,869	71-66-70-77–284
Alexandre Rocha (5), $13,869	67-68-75-74–284
Zack Fischer, $13,601	73-65-71-76–285
Jordan Spieth, $13,601	69-68-73-75–285
Seung-Yul Noh (1), $13,400	68-71-72-78–289

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opening Ceremonies of All Schools Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Koblerville Elementary School students enter the field during the parade of teams in last week's 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex.

William S. Reyes Elementary School students show the Kingfisher's banner.

Saipan International School's Kathy Pagapular-Ruszala leads a small group of students at the parade.

Agape Christian School students head to their spot.

Whispering Palms' Rob Epley escorts his student-athletes to the field.

Gregorio Camacho Elementary School students join the parade.

A Tanapag Elementary School students checks at their team's sign, while waiting for the color guard presentation.

Volunteers sing the CNMI anthem.

Marianas High School JROTC leads the color guard presentation.

Spurs rout Grizzlies 105-83 in West finals opener

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rangers beat Tigers 11-8 despite 3 HRs for Cabrera

PAGE 25

The Padres' Jordan Pangelinan gets ready to swing during the bottom of the second inning of their playoff game against the Ol'Aces in the Big League division of the SLLB last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Padres punches last finals ticket

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Padres caught the last trip to the finals of the Big League division in the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball after slipping past the Ol'Aces, 9-8, last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Kenta Castro made the game-winning hit for the Padres, as his single at the bottom of the last inning drove Jay Aldan home. It was Castro's only connection in last weekend's semis game, as he only advanced to first off an error at shortstop in his first at bat in the second inning and was knocked off in the fifth after a 4-3 putout play.

The Padres leftfielder then failed to step up to the plate in the sixth, as his team was done after only three batters and the Ol'Aces grabbed the lead, 8-7, courtesy off Jared Sablan's

See PADRES on Page 26

Players arrive for Junior ITF event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Majority of the off-island participants in the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships have arrived in time for the Junior ITF event that will start tomorrow at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

"Most of them are already here and some came as early as last weekend. Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association is thrilled to have them and host this first ever Junior ITF event. We are going to see high-level

See PLAYERS on Page 26

South Africa's Warona Mdlulwa, center, poses with CNMI players during a break in a practice session for the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Wanted Sponsor's Joey Siriban is called for a foul against Maplas La Mani's Noel David during the first quarter of their game in the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Maplas gets second straight win in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Maplas La Mani made it two in a row after outclassing Wanted Sponsor, 76-68, in the second game in the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Maplas, which had a 0-2 start before entering the win column with a 74-62 upset over Chinatown last week, drew solid games from Noel David and Mico Usi to notch its second consecutive victory. Usi top-scored for Maplas with 24 points, while David chipped in 21.

David nailed 8 straight points at the beginning of the

See MAPLAS on Page 26